



Rhythm and Rhyme

Identifying rhyming words helps children to understand patterns of basic rhymes (for example: cat, sat, mat, hat, pat, bat) which will help them with their understanding how to spell words which sound similar.

When sharing nursery rhymes, emphasise the rhyming words to your child to your child. For example:

Five little speckled **frogs**
Sat on a speckled **log**
Eating the most delicious grubs, yum yum
One jumped into the **pool**
Where it was nice and **cool**
Then there were four green speckled frogs

Any nonsense word that rhymes demonstrates that your child is beginning to identify the rhyme.

Encourage your child to make up some nonsense rhymes of their own – no words are too silly!

Try these activities that focus on rhyming words

Silly Soup

A nonsense song, which helps children identify rhyming words by using objects (or drawings of objects) which rhyme.

- ❖ Can you find any of these items in your house:
- ❖ Fork, cork, shoe, glue, toy frog, toy dog, hat, toy cat, toy car, star.
- ❖ What other objects can you find which rhyme?
- ❖ Say the name of one of these objects, and see if your child can find the matching rhyming object.
- ❖ Pop them into a pan and give them a stir to make Silly Soup!

We're going to make some silly soup
We're going to make it silly
We're going to put it in the fridge
And make it nice and chilly

Rhyming colours

- ❖ Find coloured items of clothing, material or paper around the house: the best ones to use are ones which are red, blue, black or white.
- ❖ Lay them out around the room.
- ❖ Call out a word that rhymes with that colour, eg bed, thread, ted, bread, queue, glue, shoe, track, mac, quack, light, kite, night, bite.
- ❖ Can your child go to the colour which rhymes with each word?
- ❖ See if they can think of, or make up any other words that rhyme with the colour they have chosen.

Hearing 'beats' or syllables in words.

Hearing large 'chunks' of sound within words will help your child to focus on blending these chunks together, which will help develop skills in blending individual sounds later on.

- ❖ Try clapping as you say your name. For example, 'Peter' has 2 claps Pe-ter. Jessica has 3 claps: Jess-i-ca.
- ❖ Encourage your child to 'clap the names of family members
- ❖ Can your child 'clap' the names of their favourite toys, and any other items around the house? How many 'claps' in 'pan', 'sofa', 'microwave'.

Row, row, row your boat

This is not just a great rhythm activity but also a good physical one too. This needs coordination and a little bit of strength to get down the river!

- ❖ Sit facing each other with both your legs in front of you.
- ❖ Hold each others hands and rock back and forth as you sing the song below: there are lots of versions and you can always make up your own, just make sure it rhymes!

**Row row, row your boat gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream.**

**Row row, row your boat gently down the stream,
If you see crocodile
Don't forget to scream.**

**Row row, row your boat gently to the shore,
If you see a lion there
Don't forget to roar**

**Row row, row your boat gently down the river
If you see a polar bear
Don't forget to shiver.**

End the song with

**"Rock, rock, rock your boat gently to and fro,
Wibbly, wobbly, wibbly, wobbly
Into the water you go!**

whilst moving from side to side