

Parents' Guide to Early Literacy Development

Rhyming



There is indisputable research evidence that parents/ carers are the single most important influence on children's development and educational attainment.

Experts strongly suggest that the teaching of **Nursery Rhymes** and games, which promote an understanding of **rhyme**, can greatly help children in their early reading development.



Experience of **Rhyming** can help children in **speech segmentation** and can also develop **phonological awareness**, which is the awareness of the sounds in spoken words. This **phonological awareness** is a crucial foundation skill for learning to read.

Practice in **rhyming** is important because learning to recognise rhyme helps children recognise that any spoken word can be broken down into smaller units of sounds.

The most easily recognised unit of sound, for the beginner reader is that which makes one word rhyme with another.

This unit or sound is called a **rime**.



For example, the words – **cat, bat, mat** and **sat** all have the **rime “at”**.

Training and practice in rhyming activities can greatly help spelling development in addition to reading development.

You can greatly help by:

- Teaching your child Nursery Rhymes
- Record your child reciting his/her favourite rhymes
- Share rhyming books
- Read rhymes aloud and see if your child can supply the rhyming words:

e.g. Last week I chased a mouse, I chased it round and round the -----

- Talk about the words which rhyme and try to say other rhyming words

Make up silly rhymes

e.g. The dog and the frog sat on the log.

The boy lost his sock under the clock.

The king dropped his ring when he was on the swing.

- Play “I spy” with both alliteration and rhyme.... ie
I spy with my little eye something beginning with....
I spy with my little eye something rhyming with....
- Play rhyming bumps eg sit down when you hear a rhyming pair... **“Hat and chair, knife and fork, clock and sock”**
- Clap the rhythm of Nursery Rhymes
- Use picture cards from lotto or Snap games and ask your child to try to supply the rhyming word.
- Make up a rhyming box at home with items with names which rhyme.



Above all, help your child by spending time together!