



Word Play — Rhymes and Other Prereading Activities



Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness: The ability to hear the sound structure of speech, that is, the ability to perceive word sounds and pronounce words and parts of words.

Rhymes: Word endings that sound the same

Alliterations: Word beginnings that sound the same.

Becoming aware of rhymes and alliterations helps children to

- Hear and match word endings that are the same
- Hear and identify word sounds at the beginnings of familiar words
- Figure out that words are a collection of familiar sounds
- Rearrange word sounds to make up new words

Creating Rhymes

List as many rhyming words as you can under each word. Use real or nonsense words.

Bike	Table	Fox	Mop

Common Alliterations

Add your own alliterative phrases to the list.

1. Fee, fie, fo, fum
2. Wee Willie Winkie
3. Tic, tack, toe
4. Plink, plank, plunk
5. Fine feathered friends
6. Topsy turvy
7. Peter, Peter, pumpkin-eater
8. Robin redbreast

Activities to Build Rhyme Awareness

Fill in the missing rhyme.

- When reading or reciting familiar rhymes, pause so children can fill in the rhyming word.
“Hickory, dickory, **dock**. The mouse ran up the _____.”
- As you recite a familiar rhyme, complete the rhyme with a different rhyming word (for example, “The mouse ran up the *sock* (*block, pock*).”

Do it when it rhymes.

- “If your name rhymes with the word *balicia* it’s your turn to wash your hands.” (Alicia goes to the bathroom to wash her hands.)
- “When you hear the rhyme that matches with your name, go lay down on your cot: Stya (*Nya goes to her cot*), Frendan (*Brendan goes to his cot*), Mosita (*Rosita goes to her cot*).”

Rhyming “I spy.”

- “I see something we’re sitting on that rhymes with *bug*. What do you think it could be?”
- “I spy something on the table that rhymes with silk.”

Activities to Build Alliterative Awareness

Do it when you hear the same sound.

- “When you hear a word that starts with the same sound as your name, jump up and down. Sam, mop, [pause]; Sam, shoe, [pause]; Sam, sun, [pause].”
- “If your name starts with the same sound as the word *moon*, clap your hands.” (Mackenzie claps her hands.)

Alliteration “I spy.”

- “I spy, with my little eyes, something on the shelf that starts with the sound /b/. It’s a book.”
- “Let’s pick up the toys on the floor that start with the sound /t/.” (e.g., trucks, Tinkertoys)

Note: The symbol /b/ is read “buh.” The symbol /t/ is read “tuh.”

Substitute beginning sounds.

- Me, Millie, Minkey,
Runs through the town.
- Bittle, Biss, Buffet,
Sat on a tuffet.

Acting Out Nursery Rhymes

1. Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet,
Sat on a tuffet
Eating her curds and whey
Along came a spider
And sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

Props: Pillow, bowl, spoon

2. Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence
A pocket full of rye
Four and twenty blackbirds (Substitute the number of children for “four and twenty”)
Baked in a pie
When the pie was opened
The birds began to sing
Wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?

Variation: Ask children to choose other animals to bake in the pie.

3. Rub a Dub, Dub

Rub a dub, dub
Three men in a tub
And who do you think they be?
The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker
Traveling out to sea.

Props: Paddles (long block, paper towel roll), name signs (butcher, baker, candlestick maker)

4. Nursery Rhyme:

Props:

It's Time for Phonological Awareness

Time of day:

Activities:

Time of day:

Activities:

Time of day:

Activities:

Implementation Plan

1. One activity I would like to try is

2. When will I do this activity?

3. Materials I will need

Rhyming Stories

The Duchess Bakes a Cake by Virginia Kahl

How Big is a Pig? by Clare Beaton

Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino, Steven Kellog (illustrator)

Mouse Mess by Linnea Asplind Riley

The Napping House by Audrey Wood, Don Wood (illustrator)

See You Later, Alligator by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

The Seven Silly Eaters by Mary Ann Hoberman, Marla Frazee (illustrator)

Time for Bed by Mem Fox, Jane Dyer (illustrator)

Rhyming Song Books

Hush Little Baby by Sylvia Long

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly by Simms Taback

Miss Mary Mack by Mary Ann Hoberman, Nadine Bernard (illustrator)

Over in the Meadow by John Langstaff, Feodor Rojankovsy (illustrator)

The Seals on the Bus by Lenny Hart, G. Brian Karus (illustrator)

Skip to My Lou by Nadine Bernard Westcott

Storybooks That Include Alliteration

Alligators All Around: An Alphabet by Maurice Sendak

The Baby Beebee Bird by Diane Redfield Massie, Steven Kellog (illustrator)

Busy Buzzing Bumblebees and Other Tongue Twisters by Alvin Schwartz, Paul Meisel
(illustrator)

Jack and the Beanstalk by Richard Walker, Niamh Sharkey (illustrator)

Miss Spider's ABC by David Kirk

Penguin Pup for Pinkerton by Steven Kellogg

Sheep on a Ship by Nancy Shaw, Margot Apple (illustrator)

Silly Sally by Audrey Wood

The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Mary Finch, Roberta Arenson (illustrator)