

LITERACY ON THE GO: Early Literacy Activities For Tots

Children are naturally drawn to rhyming words found in books, poems, songs and nursery rhymes – that’s why Dr. Seuss books are so popular. Besides reading to your child, there are many fun, interactive ways to teach rhyming and build vocabulary at the same time – here are just a few. Sing the alphabet song with your child. Play “Rhymin’ Simon” – “Simon says say a word that rhymes with ball”. Draw a picture that with your child’s name – like a cat for Matt. Play a guessing game – “I’m thinking of a word that rhymes with pop and rabbits do this”. Make up rhyming words with your child about a particular topic like outdoors words – fun, sun, run; ride, hide, slide. Play “Odd One Out” game – ask which word doesn’t belong: sat-mat-cow-bat. Here are some easy rhyming words to help you get started with your own variations of these games: bat-cat-fat-hat-gnat-mat-pat-rat-sat; bell-fell-sell-tell-well; kite-white-might-night-sight-fight-light; bow-go-hoe-low-no-row-snow-sew-toe-woe; bun-fun-done-none-run-sun; bake-cake-flake-lake-make-rake-snake-take; bear-care-dare-fair-hair-lair-pair; cow-how-meow-now-vow-wow; beat-feet-heat-meat-neat-peat-seat. The more you rhyme the easier it becomes - now that you're done, go have some fun!!!

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they can actually read and write. Rhyming is a pre-reading skill that helps children learn sound and word patterns. For more information on community literacy resources, call Healthy Start at 728-KIDS.