

Improving Children's Awareness of Rhyme

Why focus on rhyme?

- Rhyme is a great way to get children having fun with language
- Listening for rhymes helps children to be more aware of sounds in words
- Rhyming is a really important skill for reading and spelling

Here are some easy ideas to try:

Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall...
Humpty Dumpty had a great banana!

Silly Nursery Rhymes

Say a nursery rhyme and make a mistake on the rhyming word. Can they spot the mistake? Can they tell you what the word should have been? This is a good game for parents to try on car journeys!

I spy with my little eye...
Something that rhymes with
star....(car)

Rhyming I Spy

Play just like usual I spy but give a rhyming clue instead of a sound clue.

Liskets.....tiskets.....misk
ets...fiskets.....shall we
take a packet of.....

Silly picnic game

Collect some food together – either real or play food – and put it in a bag. Now make up silly nonsense rhyming clues to see if your child can guess what you are taking on our pretend picnic. Saying lots of silly nonsense rhyming words gives them the chance to hear the rhyme lots of times and this will help them to guess. E.g. “felly, belly, welly, telly..shall we take a wobbly ...(jelly)?”

I'm thinking of one
that rhymes with
“drain”... drain - car;
drain - train; drain –
bike.Which one
sounds the same?

Which one am I thinking about? Put three toys out and give your child a rhyming clue about which one you are thinking of. For example, you could put out three farm animals such as cow, sheep and pig and say “I am thinking of one that rhymes with “dig”.” If they find it tricky then say the pairs of words for them. E.g. “dig – cow; dig – sheep; dig – pig – which one sounds the same?”

Try the same game with three vehicles or three pieces of play food etc. Make it harder by having more than three things to choose from.