

B1: Rhyming Songs & Poems

Lesson Objective: Children will be able to hear and identify spoken words that rhyme.

Materials

- Books, poems, nursery rhymes and songs with lots of rhyming

Activity

You are probably already reading to your child, teaching him a variety of children's songs and poems. As you read, draw your child's attention to the rhymes in familiar rhymes and poems.

Video: How to play Rhyming Songs & Poems

Start with nursery rhymes and songs that your child already has memorized, so that he can focus on the rhymes rather than remembering the lines. Also, start with short and simple songs or poems with very obvious rhymes, such as "Humpty Dumpty" or "Itsy Bitsy Spider."

Draw your child's attention to the rhyming words by going through the poems and songs in a variety of ways:

1. Whisper the poem, but say the rhyming words in a regular voice.
Alternately, say the poem loudly, but whisper the rhyming words.

Adult: Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the king's horses, and all the king's men Couldn't

put Humpty together again!

Adult: What word rhymed with Humpty?

Child: Humpty Dumpty!

Adult: That's right. What word rhymed with wall?

Child: Um...

Adult: Remember how the poem goes: Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

(continued)

Humpty Dumpty had a great...

Child: Fall!

2. Now reverse the process. Whisper the poem, but when you come to the rhyming word, have the child say the rhyming word in a regular voice. Alternately, say the poem loudly, but have the child whisper the rhyming words.

Adult: I'm going to say a poem, very quietly,

and you help me by saying the rhyming words

nice and loud, okay?

Here we go:

Humpty...

Child: Dumpty!

Adult: Yes! Humpty Dumpty sat on a...

Child: Wall!

Adult: That's right. Humpty...

Child: Dumpty!

Adult: Had a great...

Child: Fall!

3. Change a few words to "mess up" some of the rhymes. Have your child raise his hand, clap, etc. when the words at the end of two lines rhyme. Have him shake his head, give a thumbs-down, etc. when they do not rhyme. Have him say the words out loud: "Fox and box are rhyming words!" or "No, bat and dog do not rhyme."

Adult: Humpty Hipster sat on a wall... Child: No!

You got it wrong!

Adult: I did? What should I have said?

Child: Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall!

Adult: That's right, because Humpty rhymes with Dumpty.

Say that: Humpty rhymes with Dumpty.

(continued)

Child: Humpty rhymes with Dumpty.

Adult: OK, let's try again.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great tumble.

Child: No, you got it wrong again!

Note: Do not show your child the spelling of the written words. This is a listening activity! In fact, rhyming parts of two words can be spelled very differently, such as in the sentence “I knew that you fell through the blue canoe.”

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Adaptation: Read the main activity, watch the video, and follow the instructions above, with the following changes:

Divide the small group into pairs. Give the partners a choice of two rhymes to recite, with your help. Decide where to add the “mistake” and what word you will substitute. The rest of the class will give a thumbs up when they hear the correct rhyme and thumbs down for the mistake.

To be sure children understand the concept of rhyming (words that sound alike at the end), start with mistakes that are due to the lack of rhyming words at the end of a two-line couplet. For example:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great crash. [Children give thumbs down]

Later on, use two-line rhyming couplets that end with a wrong word that still rhymes. For example:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great ball. [Children give thumbs down]