

Phonological Awareness Fun!

PARENT ACTIVITY

Building a foundation for reading with rhymes and songs!

Nursery rhymes, songs, and chants provide a rich introduction to our language, making them a wonderful building block in learning to read. Overflowing with rhythm and rhyme, well-loved children's poems and songs provide the perfect place for playing with the parts and patterns of language. Children love the cadence, rhyme, and alliteration present in nursery rhymes and songs. These features make rhymes and songs easy to remember, providing a fantastic foundation for learning to read.

Introducing your child to nursery rhymes and songs may be easier than you think! Your local library is full of books that will be just right for finding songs, nursery rhymes, and poems. Bookstores will also have a wide selection from which to choose. You can even find websites that encourage your child to read or sing along! See the suggested list of books, CDs, and websites below to get started.

Infusing nursery rhymes and songs into everyday life is not only easy, but fun as well! Read books together before bedtime. Sing songs together as you take a walk, or cook, or play. Listen to CDs in the car. Children love and learn from repetition. The more your child hears a rhyme or song, the more familiar it will become, and the more s/he will love it. So go ahead and play that CD again or read that book!

Children love to participate! As children learn and memorize the words to nursery rhymes and songs, they will eventually be able to read or sing along. This is a beginning step to reading. Once your child can recite a favorite nursery rhyme, poem, or song by heart, try these steps to model how to finger-point read. First, read a nursery rhyme, poem, or song lyrics to your child, pointing to the words as you go. Next, have your child read and point along with you. Finally, let your child take a turn by reading to you, helping along the way. Enjoy your time together as you help your child build a foundation for reading!

SUGGESTIONS



Books

A Children's Treasury of Nursery Rhymes illustrated by Linda Bleck
A Children's Treasury of Songs illustrated by Linda Bleck



CDs

Nursery Rhymes with Sing Along CD by priddybooks
Singable Songs for the Very Young by Raffi
Wee Sing Children's Songs and Fingerplays by Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp
Wee Sing: The Best of Wee Sing by Pamela Conn Beall and Susan Hagen Nipp



Websites

www.rif.org/kids/leadingtoreading
www.kidsfavorhits.com
www.gardenofsong.com