



Rhyme Time *

Kids and adults *love* rhyming words. Rhymes are in songs, in raps, in poems, in ads, in jump-rope games, and just about everywhere. This activity can be done any time, anywhere, and especially when you're in a *silly* mood! It helps children learn that it's fun and fine to play with words, sounds, and rhythms. It develops their *attentiveness* and their ability to hear sounds. It develops their vocabulary.

Here are some ways to do this:

- 1) Think of a simple sentence that you say to your children frequently. Then make up a rhyme to match it. For example, with "It's time to go to bed!" add, "So lay down your pretty head!" Or with "Sit down and eat your dinner," add, "We don't want you any thinner!" **OR**
- 2) Think of a word or a simple statement such as, "I saw a puppy dog." Then ask your child to tell you a word that rhymes with dog – like log, hog, fog, frog, bog. See how many you and your child can come up with. (For older children, try picking more unusual words.)

Then see if you and your child can put these words together in an easy little poem with several rhyming words. For example, "I saw a dog who sat on a log. He sniffed at a frog and then jumped in the bog." If your child offers a nonsense word, that's just fine. See who can come up with the silliest lines. Go for giggles here – for the fun of sounds. **OR**

- 3) Try for a question rhyme: Did you ever try to tickle a pickle? Did you ever try to hug a bug? Did you ever try to eat your feet?
You might want to give a reward, like staying up an extra 20 minutes to read, for the really special question rhymes.

If you come up with rhymes or poems you like, write them in the **Our Treasures** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



"I totally love when children make up rhymes. Sometimes we play *rhyming games* all day like, 'Let's jump in the car and drive away far!' This has led to the kids singing their own verses to familiar songs, or making up new songs altogether. And we laugh ourselves silly at nonsense words."

— *Grandma Anna*

*Rhyme Time supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to listening and speaking strategies and phonemic awareness.

