

Try these fun, at-home activities to support your 3- through 5-year-old's literacy development!

Body Rhyme Game

Rhyming is the ability to group words together by a common ending sound such as frog, dog, and log. Rhyming can support reading and spelling development. Play this Body Rhyme Game to help your child learn to rhyme.

MATERIALS:

There are no materials for this game, but before you play, it may be helpful to think about words that rhyme with various body parts. For example, "head" rhymes with bed, sled, red, fed, and Ted.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Say to your child that you are going to point to a body part and then say some words. Your child has to say whether the words rhyme with your body part. For example, "eye" and "pie" rhyme, but "eye" and "bat" do not rhyme.
2. *Extend:* As you point to your body parts, have your child come up with their own words that rhyme. For example, "ear" rhymes with cheer, tear, smear, peer, and fear.

Mirror, mirror on the wall, how many syllables in all?

A **syllable** is a unit of pronunciation with one vowel sound. Knowing how to divide words in syllables can help children later with spelling. You can determine how many syllables are in a word by the number of times your chin drops when you say the word. Use mirrors to help your child see how many times their chin drops as they are saying different words.

MATERIALS:

For this activity you will need a mirror and words you would like to use (e.g., names, animals, food, superheroes).

DIRECTIONS:

1. Stand in front of a mirror with your child or hold a small hand-held mirror up to your face (you can also use the selfie function on your phone to act as a mirror).
2. Explain to your child that you are going to say some words together and count how many times their chin goes down when they say the word [e.g., Hulk (1), Bat-man (2), Su-per-man (3)]. That is the number of syllables in the word.
3. Say each word to the mirror and have fun counting syllables!
4. *Extend:* Make this activity even more fun by changing your voice for each word. For example, say "broccoli" in a robot voice or "peanut" in a spooky voice.

Silly Sound Story

Recognizing **alliteration** (words with the same beginning sound) is an important pre-reading skill. Have alliterative fun with your child by creating a **Silly Sound Story!**

MATERIALS:

There are no materials for this game, but it may be helpful to have selected a target sound such as /s/.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pick out a target sound such as /s/. Make the sound with your child.
2. Tell your child that every time they hear the target sound, they should touch their nose.
3. Then begin telling a story with lots of words beginning with the /s/ sound. For example, “Simone the Spotted Seal saw Sally the Striped Snake on the sandy seashore.” You can really put emphasis on the beginning sound to help your child notice it.
4. *Extend:* Have your child add to the story by coming up with their own words that begin with the target sound.