

Rhyming: A Facet of Phonological Awareness

Rhyme involves a child being able to hear and identify similar word patterns. Rhyming words sound the same at the end. For example “hat” and “cat” rhyme because they have the “at” sound at the end. Do these words rhyme? Man – tan (yes), fun – mat (no). Which word does not rhyme? Man, fan, pat (pat). Children benefit from hearing songs, rhymes and rhythmic language to develop phonological awareness. Help your little ones to learn nursery rhymes; say them, chant them, and sing them.

Example: Read the below nursery rhyme to your child(ren).

“Hickory, Dickory, Dock.”

Hickory, Dickory, Dock

The mouse ran up the clock.

The clock struck one.

The mouse ran down.

Hickory, Dickory, Dock

More Rhyming Fun!

1. What word rhymes with Hickory? (Dickory) What word rhymes with Dock? (Clock)
2. Below are additional ways to help child to develop rhyme and rhythm.
 - A. Make up your own rhymes with your child.
 - B. Play word games – “How many words can you say that rhyme with fox? Bill?”
 - C. Read a favorite story – Ask child to listen for words that begin with the same sounds as a word in the story. For example, “Name some words that begin the same as ‘Goldilocks?’”
 - D. Have your child repeat tongue twisters: Sam’s silly snake slept in the sun.