

Reading and word sounds



The first step in hearing word and letter sounds is developing listening skills. Speak slowly and clearly when you read to help your child hear the differing sounds. When you read books that rhyme, you have the chance to help them learn about sounds.

Rhyming:

- After reading a book that has rhyming words, say, "I heard a lot of rhyming words when we read that book. Let's go back and find words that rhyme. I see "Jill" and "hill." They end in the same sound. That makes them rhyme. What else could rhyme with Jill and hill?" (mill, till, dill) "Those are silly sounds!"
- If you have read a rhyming word book several times to your child, try leaving a rhyming word blank for your child to fill in, like . . .

*Little Boy Blue, come blow your
horn, the sheeps in the meadow
the cow's in the ____.*

Your child would fill in "corn." You would say, "Horn and corn are rhyming words. They end with the same sound. They rhyme."

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Read aloud to your child everyday.

It's the best thing a family can do to support success in reading!

Tips for a Great Read-Aloud Time

Snuggle up! Put your arm around your child.



Let your child select a book.



Make sure your child can see the book.



Read slowly and with expression.



Talk about the pictures.



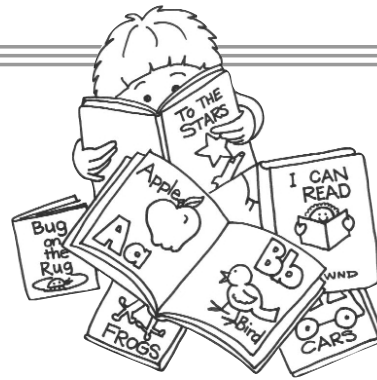
When finished, ask your child "What did you like best about this book?"



Have fun!



The next day, ask your child to tell you about the book you read last night.



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