



## Listen Up!

### *Hear Rhyming Sounds and Letter Sounds*

**Phonological Awareness-** When children hear the different sounds in speech, it lays the foundation for reading. In addition to using language to communicate, children can notice that words are made of sounds, rhythms, rhymes and syllables. Once your child is familiar with the sounds of language, he or she will then be able to make the association between letters and sounds.



*You can help your preschool child learn to listen to words by having fun with:*

**Alliteration** - Words that have the same beginning sound.

- Emphasize the beginning sounds as you say the words so your child will notice that the sounds are the same. Say, "Did you hear these sounds? Both words start with the same sound."

*Example: "Big Boy" or "Helping Hand"*

**Rhyming Words** - Words that have the same ending sounds.

- Say nursery rhymes together. After your child knows a rhyme well, pause and let your child fill in the word. Talk about the words that rhyme. Try this one on a rainy day!

*Example: "Rain, rain, go away,  
Come again another day,  
Little Johnny wants to play."*

- Sing songs to help your child learn words, and hear sounds and rhymes. Try this one together and act out the motions.

*Example: "I'm a little teapot, short and stout,  
Here is my handle and here is my spout.  
When I get all steamed up, hear me shout-  
Tip me over and pour me out!"*

**Syllables** - The units of sounds in a word.

- Notice the parts of the words as you say them.
- Compare your family names. Say a name slowly and clap when you hear each part. For example: 'Jon/a/than' has three syllables. Which family member's name is longest or shortest?