

# Help Children Hear the Sounds in Words

Talking about the first sound in a word, or words that rhyme builds a child's sound awareness. This lays the foundation for later reading and writing! Help children hear the sounds in words using these fun tips:

## Play Time

While playing with toys in water, find toys to drop into the water that begin with a specific sound, such as 'fff' – e.g., frog, fish, food, etc. Emphasize that all of these items begin with the "fff" sound. For example, "Listen: 'fffish'". See if the child can find any toys to add that begin with the same sound.



## Daily Activities

During mealtime, see how many food items you and the child can name that begin with a particular sound. You could say, "'salt' starts with a 'sss' sound and so does 'soup.' What else can we eat that starts with 'sss'?" Pause and wait for the child to respond. If they can't think of anything after 5 seconds, share another example of your own.

## On the Go

While out for a walk, sing a familiar song like *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* and talk about the words that rhyme. For example, "'High' and 'sky' rhyme. They sound the same at the end. Let's find another word that rhymes with 'high'. How about 'pie'? 'High', 'sky' and 'pie' all rhyme. They all sound the same at the end." Ask, "What else rhymes with 'high'?"

## Book Reading

Share a rhyming book with a child that they are already familiar with. Pause before reading one of the rhyming words to see if they fill in the blank. If they do, make a comment such as, "Hey! 'Cat' and 'bat' rhyme. They sound the same at the end of the word, listen: 'cat' 'bat'".



## Notes