

Helping children with rhyme so that they are ready to be good readers

- Talk to your child and sing songs and rhymes together.
- Read and share nursery rhyme books and storybooks that are written in rhyme. After a few readings your child will love joining in. When they know a book well, stop at a certain point in the reading and let him or her 'fill in' the rhyming words.
- Listen to how your child plays with language. Let him or her make up their own rhymes, for example, 'easy, peasy, weasy, deasy'.
- Make up rhymes together, 'I like coffee, I don't like tea, but I do like sitting on Grandad's knee'.
- Take it in turns to think of words that rhyme with a simple word like 'cat': for example, 'fat', 'rat', 'mat' 'bat'. It does not matter if they are made up words.
- Collect pictures and objects of things that rhyme: for example, a sock, a clock and a lock.
- Sing, jump and move to the rhythm of songs and rhymes as you walk to the shops, play in the park or garden.
- When children are confident with rhyme try choosing a letter sound and look for things beginning with that sound. The letter sounds do not need to be written down. It's important that your child can hear the sounds first, ready for later on when they begin to make the link between the sound they can hear and the written symbol he or she is seeing.

