

Rhyming Games

Phonological Awareness • Rhyming

See our video demonstrating this activity at bipl.link/phonofun

Here are 4 speaking-only (no reading) rhyming activities you can do when out on a walk—no materials needed, just your imagination!

Start by explaining that two words rhyme when they end in the same sounds, like **tree** and **bee**.

The easiest words are 1-syllable words like “tree,” “rock,” “house,” etc., and the rhymes you come up with do not have to be real words—they can be Martian words like “meesh” or “drog!”

1. **Do these 2 words rhyme? (yes/no):** Offer pairs of words to your child that rhyme, based on what you see on your walk (e.g. stair-chair, bird-heard, trunk-bunk). Have them repeat the words, and decide together if they have the same endings (“do they rhyme?”) Once this is solid, offer both rhyming pairs and non-rhyming pairs and ask do these rhyme?

E.g. car-far (yes), bike-sand (no), sand-hand (yes), cat-sat (yes), house-door (no)

2. **Take a step for each rhyme:** When you find together a pair that rhymes, take a step for each additional rhyme you can come up with, e.g. “tree-bee...knee!” (step), “flea!” (step), towards a tree or other object near you. Can you make it all the way to the tree, coming up with a rhyme per step?
3. **Child leads and finds the rhymes:** As you continue on your walk, you and your child can say words for what you see (dog, paw, boot, leaf), and see if the other can come up with a rhyme for that word (e.g. fog, law, hoot, reef).
4. **I hear with my little ear (advanced):** If your child is very comfortable with rhyming, try playing, if you see a road, for instance, “I hear with my little ear, a word that rhymes with *toad*.” Did they spot the road? This game asks you to find words that rhyme with something you see, and present the rhyming word. Your child can try being the asker too, if they feel confident with rhyming.