

Making rhyme

Lesson 2 of 81 (ages 3-6) · Getting Ready · Ages 3-6 · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can say a word (real or silly) that rhymes with a word you say.

WHY IT MATTERS

Making a rhyme is harder than hearing one: your child has to keep the end of a word and swap the beginning sound. That swap is an early version of the 'change one sound' skill used later to build and read new words.

YOU'LL NEED

- Nothing is required.
- Optional: a rhyming picture book (Dr. Seuss, Julia Donaldson...).
- The lesson page, for the listening game.

LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min

Warm up

Play 'I spy something that rhymes with...' with things in the room.

SAY *"I spy something that rhymes with 'bed'... (red!)"*

2 min

Listen

Play cat, hat, bat on the lesson page. Point out that only the first sound changes.

SAY *"Cat, hat, bat. Same ending, new start!"*

2 min

Show how

Make a rhyme chain yourself first. Keep the ending, change the start, and include one silly word.

SAY *"Cat... hat... bat... mat... zat! Zat isn't a real word, but it still rhymes. Silly words count!"*

2 min

Do it together

Take turns adding to a rhyme chain: start with cat, then bee, then bug. Then rhyme with names: Sam, jam, ham.

2 min

Play

Play the listening game on the lesson page. Your child hears a word and taps the picture that rhymes with it.

1 min

Wrap up

Let your child choose a word for you to rhyme with. Get one wrong on purpose and let them correct you.

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
phonicademy.com/plan/session/awareness-making-rhyme
- **Read: Phonological Awareness: 8-Level Progression with Ready Activities**
phonicademy.com/blog/phonological-awareness-activities
- **Printable: 5-Minute Daily Routine Card (PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-5min-routine
- **Read: Is My Child Ready to Read? 10 Signs of Reading Readiness**
phonicademy.com/blog/reading-readiness-checklist

ANSWER KEY

The same rounds as the online game, to play out loud with no screen. Tick each one your child gets on the first try.

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	What rhymes with "cat"?	dog, hat, sun	hat	☐
2	What rhymes with "bug"?	cat, mug, pen	mug	☐
3	What rhymes with "car"?	boat, hen, star	star	☐
4	What rhymes with "bee"?	dog, sock, tree	tree	☐
5	What rhymes with "fox"?	box, cow, pig	box	☐
6	What rhymes with "moon"?	bee, bus, spoon	spoon	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Gives a word that MEANS something close (cat -> dog).

-> "Dog is cat's friend, but I need a word that SOUNDS like cat: c-at, h-at..." and pause for them to finish.

Repeats the same word (cat -> cat).

-> Keep the ending and change the start out loud together: "cat... now start with /h/... h-at!"

Freezes and says nothing.

-> Offer a choice instead of a blank: "Does hat or dog rhyme with cat?"

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Give two choices every time ("hat or dog?") instead of asking for a word from nothing.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Make a rhyme chain of 5 or more words, or rhyme two-syllable words (funny / bunny / money).

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Says a rhyming word (real or silly) for 3 different words.
- ☐ Picks the rhyming picture in the game.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____