



## English Language Arts

### Differentiates sounds



Being able to identify and manipulate sounds in spoken language is the foundation for word recognition and vocabulary development. Figuring out when words rhyme, coming up with words that share a beginning or ending sound, and creating silly sentences can lead to future success in reading.\*

### ACTIVITY IDEAS

#### Name Rhymes

Change the first letter of your child's name to make a rhyming word (e.g., Ted/Med, Lamar/Samar). Continue with other names of family members, pets, or places. Have fun playing with silly, made-up names.

#### Listening Walk

Take a "listening walk" outside with your child. Have her share sounds she hears (e.g., a dog barking, a bird chirping, a horn honking, an airplane).

#### Same Sounds

Have your child choose a family member's name, then help him come up with other words that start with the same sound (e.g., Matt: mop, mad, mom).

#### Rhyming with Furniture

Take turns pointing to furniture in your house and naming words that rhyme. You might say, "Bear and chair rhyme, but bear and cat do not."

#### Syllable Clapping

While taking a walk outside, ask your child to identify animals or plants, and practice clapping out the syllables (e.g., grass/hop/per, hor/net, sun/flow/er).

#### Silly Sentences

Make up silly sentences using words that all begin with the same sound: "My mother made me munch mushy meatballs."

#### Book Rhymes

Read books that include rhyming words.

#### Sing Along!

Teach your child songs, chants, cheers, poems, and nursery rhymes.

#### Grocery Rhyme Game

While in the grocery store, have your child choose a fruit or vegetable, and recite its rhyming words – the sillier the better.

\* Ehri, L. C. (2013). Orthographic mapping in the acquisition of sight word reading, spelling memory, and vocabulary learning. *Scientific Studies of Reading, 18*, 5–21.



---

Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.