

Did You Ever See...?

Primary Objectives

15a. Notices and discriminates rhyme

Why It's Important

Children enjoy singing playful, silly songs with rhyme and rhythmic language. Involving your child in these types of musical experiences helps her become more aware of the sound structure of spoken language.

Materials

Recording of the folk song "Down by the Bay" by Raffi and Nadine Bernard Wescott; pictures of familiar animals or a similar selection of plastic animals

What You Do

1. Sing "Down by the Bay" with your child so that she is familiar with the song.
2. Remind your child that rhyming words are words that sound alike at the end. Give some examples of rhyming words in the song. Invite her to repeat the rhymes she hears in the song.
3. Next explain that you and your child are going to make up a new verse of the song together. Show her the pictures and review the names of the animals. Ask her to choose a picture.
4. Invite her to sing a new verse with you, inserting the name of the selected animal. Pause appropriately to let your child supply a word that rhymes with the animal's name. For example, *Did you ever see a sheep driving a Jeep, down by the bay?*
5. Sing the new verse with your child. Create new verses together for as long as she is interested.