

Tips for teaching rhyme:

- When talking to your child about rhyme the best explanation is that 'words that rhyme sound the same at the end'.
- When teaching your child anything it is important that it is fun and in short bursts (no longer than 5-10 minutes).
- Remember that the concept of rhyme is very tricky for young children; don't worry if they don't get it straight away!

Fun ideas for teaching rhyme:

- Read a rhyming story at bedtime and see if your child can pick the words that rhyme (they are usually at the end of sentences). So have a look through the book shelf to see if you have any stories that rhyme, all stories written by Julia Donaldson are very good for finding words that rhyme.
- Sing nursery rhymes and miss out the second word that rhymes. For example 'Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great (fall)'. As they become more confident see if they can think of any other words that might rhyme (wall, fall, tall, ball). If you aren't very confident with sing nursery rhymes they are easy to find if you type 'nursery rhymes' into YouTube.
- Play rhyming games such as:
 - *Rhyming hopscotch- Draw a hopscotch with chalk or make one with tape. Put pictures of different animals/objects in each square. Name all of the pictures in the squares and say 'I can see something that rhymes with ...' Tell your child to stop on the picture that rhymes. If they find this difficult you can use fewer pictures and gradually add more.
 - *Rhyming pairs- Give your child a card, put 2 more cards onto the floor making sure that one of them rhymes with a card that they already have. See if they can select the one that rhymes.
 - *Rhyming soup- Put out two sets of rhyming picture cards, a bowl and a spoon. Say 'I want the words that rhyme with ...' Then sing 'We're making lots of silly soup, we're making soup that silly, we're going to put it in the fridge and make it nice and chilly'. Let your child put an picture card that rhymes with the one that you already put into the bowl. Continue until all of the rhyming cards from one set are in the bowl. To make this more fun you can pretend to mix, smell and taste it.
 - *Rhyming scavenger hunt- Hide rhyming cards around the garden/a room. See if your child can find them. As they find them say them in a row (cat, mat, hat, bat). To make it harder you could hide two sets of rhyming and see if they can sort them into two groups.
 - *There are also fun rhyming games that you can buy such as: rhyming bingo, rhyming lotto and rhyming puzzles.