

Rhymers Will Be Readers!

"Rhymers will be readers; it's that simple.

Experts in literacy and development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they are usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.

From songs, children learn words, sentences, rhythm, rhyme and repetition, all of which they'll find later in the books they read."

Mem Fox, Reading Magic 2001



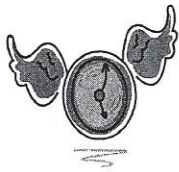
Did you know:

- Your baby can learn some of the actions to a rhyme as early as four months old.
- Your baby needs to hear lots of language in her first years.
- Rhymes can be playful or be calming.
- Rhymes and songs help you and your child to bond.
- Rhyming together is learning together.

Tips for Reading Aloud to Your Child



Start young! Read or sing anything and everything to your baby. She needs to hear lots of language and she loves the sound of your voice.



Make time! Anytime is a good time for a story, a song or a rhyme. When you are walking, riding on the bus, before bed, while you are shopping or giving your child a bath - make good use of your time with your child.



Be silly! Enthusiasm is contagious. Use different voices, actions and speeds to suit the story.



Be interactive! Let your child examine the pictures and ask questions about the story. Encourage him to join in when phrases or words are repeated.



Make connections! Connect the events in the story to things in your child's life. Ask your child questions about the story and how it made him feel.