

Promoting Phonological Awareness At Home

- Read books that have rhyme, rhythm, and repetition such as Dr. Seuss books, poetry books or nursery rhymes. After reading the book, talk about the rhyming words and ask your child to think of other words that rhyme.
- Play oral rhyming games such as "I'm thinking of a toy that rhymes with 'tall.' What is it?" **Answer:** "ball." Or, you could ask, How many words can you think of that rhyme with 'at'?"
- As you talk with your child, draw their attention to sounds in words. **For example**, you could say while petting a dog, "what a nice dog. What is the beginning sound in 'dog'?" **Answer:** /d/. Or as you play with a stuffed cat, you could say, "What is the ending sound in 'cat'?" **Answer:** /t/.
- While doing daily activities, segment or pull apart the sounds in words. **For example**, you could say, "Here is your 'hat.' I hear these sounds in 'hat' /h/ /a/ /t/. What sounds do you hear in 'hat'?"
- As you play and talk with your child, try to include deletion activities such as, "I am tall. What is the word 'tall' without the beginning sound /t/?" **Answer:** "all."
- As your child helps around the house with chores, try sound substitution activities such as, "Here is a book. Change the /b/ to /l/. What is the new word?" **Answer:** "look."
- Give your child the sounds in a word, and ask them to blend them back to make the spoken word. **For example**, you might say, "Here are the sounds of a word: /b/ /i/ /g/. What is the word?" **Answer:** "big."
- Enjoy language games such as saying as many words as you can that start with the sound /l/ or /r/. Or, try to think of as many rhyming words as you can, including made-up words. **For example**, you might say, "How many words can we think of that rhyme with 'take'?" You and your child may then come up with a list of real words such as "lake," "make", "rake", and "bake," and you may also think of made-up words such as "dake" and "gake."
- Read to, sing with, and talk to your child as many times each day as possible to build an interest in sounds, words, and language.