

*A 6 by 6 early literacy skill*

# Take Time to rhyme



6 by 6

READY TO READ

*Six skills by six years*

# Take Time to rhyme, sing and play word games

Children love to play, and when they play with words and the smaller sounds in words, they are developing an early literacy skill called *phonological awareness*. Recognizing when words rhyme and hearing the beginning sounds of words are parts of this skill set. Taking words apart into syllables and putting them back together again also contributes to this skill – and that’s exactly what happens when we sing! Babies will babble and coo, while older children will be able to recognize and repeat rhymes and songs.



Try these activities with your child . . .

■ Look at the picture on the front of this card. What do you see that rhymes with “goat”? Look for other rhymes in books and your environment.

★ Sing with your child, even if you think you can’t carry a tune! “Willowby Willowby Woo, an elephant sat on you. Willowby Willowby Wake, an elephant sat on Jake.

▼ Make silly words that sound alike:  
Michael Michael Motorcycle, Emily Bemily.

● Select a sound of the day and have fun naming all of your children’s stuffed animals or dolls with names that begin with that day’s sound.

■ Clap out words into their parts or syllables. “Monkey” gets two claps.

▼ Help your child make a collage of pictures cut from magazines that focus on one sound, like all words that begin with a “kuh” sound – car, cat, ketchup. (The focus is on the sound the letter makes, not the name of the letter.

● Play word games that change the first sounds in words. “What word would ‘book’ be if we took off the ‘buh’ sound and made it a ‘puh’ sound? Pook!”

■ Use these word endings to create rhymes:  
\_ed (red, bed, fed)  
\_at (bat, cat, mat)  
\_ing (bring, sing, ring)  
\_ight (sight, light, fight)

*Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.*