Children need to hear 1,000 stories read aloud before they begin to learn to read for themselves. Rhymes and books often have one or two unusual words. Having a large vocabulary helps children understand what they hear and what they will later read.



Hey Diddle, Diddle

The order in which things happen in a story is important. Say the nursery rhyme with your child and help them put the pictures in order to match the rhyme.

Hey diddle, diddle,

The cat and the fiddle,

The cow jumped over the moon;

The little dog laughed

To see such sport,

And the dish ran away with the spoon.









Read rhyming words to your children to build vocabulary. Change the beginning or end sound to form a new word.



Rhyming Words

What rhymes with "sat?"



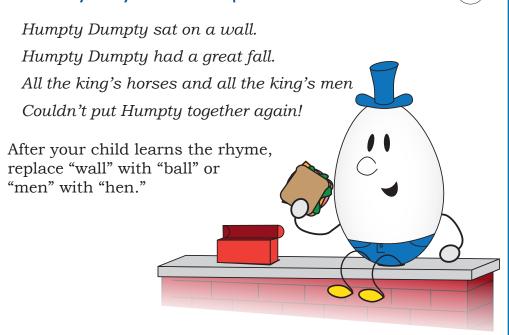
What rhymes with "man?"



Repeat nursery rhymes to your children over and over again. Children love repetition and need it to learn. When you say them "wrong"—your children will correct you!



Nursery Rhyme Mix-Up



Reading to your children is the single most important activity you can do with them. While you read, point to words in the story that your children know, and clap out



the syllables.

Clapping Syllables

Banana ba-na-na clap-clap-clap

Balloon bal-loon clap-clap

Hippopotamus hip-po-pot-a-mus clap-clap-clap-clap

For variety, try snapping fingers and tapping knees for each syllable.





Reading sometimes begins with memorizing. Point to words as you read, and soon your child will connect the look of a word to the sound of it.



