

Theme: Playing with Words

The Learning Triangle is TV that teaches + storybooks + activities—all related to one idea or skill. Parents and educators use the Learning Triangle to help children learn by encouraging them to interact with people and objects around them. Use the information below to create a Learning Triangle about verbal play.

TV that teaches

Between the Lions: #207—Poetry Day
Barney & Friends: #915—Easy as ABC
Caillou: #118—Words
Sesame Street: #4098—Goldilocks Takes
Over Nursery Rhymes
Reading Rainbow: #127—Hip Cat



Storybooks

My First Action Rhymes by Lynne Cravath
Barnyard Banter by Denise Fleming
The Hungry Thing by Jan Slepian and Ann Seidler
Around the World in Eighty Poems by James Berry
The Random House Book of Poetry for Children by Jack Prelutsky

Activities

- 1. Rhyme Time:** Play a rhyming game with your child. Start with a word like cat. Ask your child to think of a word that rhymes with cat. Take turns back and forth until you can't think of any more rhymes. Try other words like hop, bike, or moon.
- 2. Sing and Chant Through Your Day:** Make morning routines more fun by making up chants and songs: "This is the way we put on our shirt, so we can go out and play." Sing silly rhymes as you help your child take a bath: "Soapy Sammy in the tub. Rub-a-dug, rub-a-dub!" Playing with rhymes helps your child hear the sounds that make up words.
- 3. Refrigerator Words:** Use magnetic letters to help your child create words. Make a word part such as-an- with magnetic letters. Have your child put other letters in front of the word part. As each "word" is created, read the word aloud and ask your child to decide if it is a real word or a nonsense word.
- 4. Get With the Beat:** Playing with rhythm develops memory and listening skills. Clap your hands or tap a beat on your child's knee as you chant or sing. Get up and march to your favorite music. Clap a simple rhythm for your child to clap back to you.
- 5. Fern's Poetry Club:** Older children can create their own poetry and publish it on the Internet. Just go to pbskids.org/Arthur/. Click on the picture of Fern at the bottom of the page. Then click on Fern's poetry club. You can read poems written by other children or write your own. Be sure to ask an adult for permission to submit your poems.

WILL has many resources that support the education of young children. For more information contact our educational outreach coordinator at **217-333-1070** or e-mail delaney1@will.uiuc.edu.

