

Communication, Language, and Literacy Activity for 42 to 48 Months

Rhyme Detectives

This game lets children practice identifying rhyming words in a non-threatening group situation. It also provides them with a growing awareness of beginning and ending sounds of words. And, of course, they need to listen!

Materials:

- Word list of rhyming and non-rhyming words
- Small star stickers

What to do:

- Create a list of words that rhyme and sets that don't. Examples: hit-sit, dog-hot, pig-car, cat-rat, run-sun, goat-ball. You can sneak in some tricky pairs like hat-hot or pan-pen. Print clearly on cards.
- 2. Tell the child he is going to be a rhyme detective and he will need to use his ears to listen to words that end the same.
- 3. Help the child put on his "listening ears" or "rhyme detector" by placing a small star on his earlobe. Explain that once the star is on his ear, he has to listen closely.
- 4. Give an example of a pair of rhyming words, emphasizing the ending sounds. Explain to the child that when he hears a rhyme, he should clap and say, "rhyme time." But if the words don't rhyme, he should shake his head "no" and be very quiet.
- 5. Hold up the words as you speak and begin to go through the sets.
- 6. Place a star on the set of rhyming words each time the child correctly hears a rhyme.
- 7. Continue until you have been through your list or the child grows bored.

Variation:

• Read aloud books with predictable rhyming patterns and give the child the opportunity to guess the rhyme. Suggested titles include *Roar and More* by Karla Kuskin, *The Magic Hat* by Mem Fox, *Is Your Mama A Llama?* by Deborah Guarino, and *Fire*, *Fire said Mrs. McGuire* by Bill Martin.

