



researchers have found that early knowledge of nursery rhymes is strongly and specifically related to the development of more abstract word processing skills and future reading ability

... MacLean, Bryant and Bradley, 1978





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The Value of Nursery Rhymes

- ... children not only get hooked on listening to language, they also learn valuable language skills ... they are learning the patterns and rhythms of language and the way it is put together.
- ... increasing vocabularies, ... beginning to identify sounds that are the same or different, ... develop an awareness of syllables
- ... all essential components of phonemic awareness and phonological processing.

... The Reading Brain by Wolfe & Nevills



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Phonemic Awareness

Awareness that words are made up of individual *SOUNDS*

The English language consists of 41 – 51 separate phonemes


sample task:
Listen to the poem.
Tell me which words rhyme.



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“The degree of phonemic awareness that the child has developed upon entry into school is likely the strongest single determinant of the child’s reading success”

... Adams, 1990
... Stanovich 1986
... Snow, Burns & Griffin, 1998




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Phonological Awareness

Recognize that words represent a word unit – word awareness

Recognize that words are made up of different parts (syllables)

Recognize that words are made up of individual sounds (phonemes)




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Phonics

The connection between sound and letter.

Instruction often given: ‘sound it out’

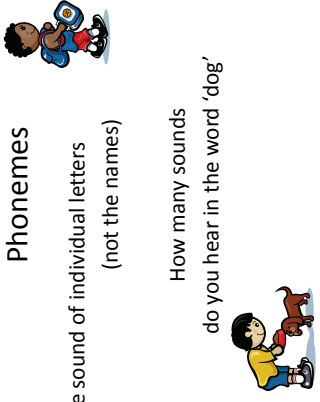


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Phonemes

the sound of individual letters
(not the names)


How many sounds
do you hear in the word 'dog'?



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Between 40 and 75 percent of preschoolers with early language impairments develop reading difficulties ...

... Aram & Hall, 1989




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Dialects and Accents ...
the problems of adult models

Adults speakers often enunciate sounds differently based on their dialectic patterns and personal speech habits


...difficult for a struggling child to clearly hear the word that the adult is trying to say.



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Concept Order


1. 'word'
2. rhyme
3. segment syllables (hear onset and rime)
4. segment and blend sounds into words



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The absence of strong oral language, reading, and word play in the home can lead to reading difficulties and a failure to progress in reading development

.... Hammill, McNutt, 1980
... Scarborough 1986




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Researchers from the University College in London (Goswami et al., 2002) found that children who read very well for their age had a strong ability to spot rhymes and beats. ...

...an awareness of beat and rhythm could influence the way children process speech patterns. This in turn can affect their reading and writing skills. ...

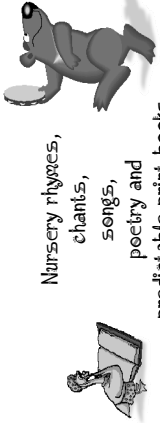
Training in rhyme and beat can help develop this distinction. as reading skills emerge.

(Quote from book: The Threads of Reading – Karen Tankersley)



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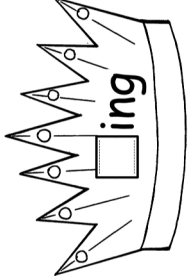
Nursery rhymes, chants, songs, poetry and predictable print books all have the types of patterns necessary for building strong talk-print linkages



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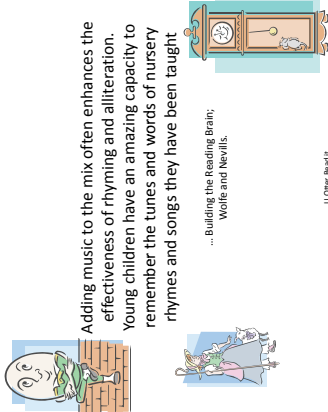
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Adding music to the mix often enhances the effectiveness of rhyming and alliteration. Young children have an amazing capacity to remember the tunes and words of nursery rhymes and songs they have been taught

... Building the Reading Brain; Wolfe and Nevills.

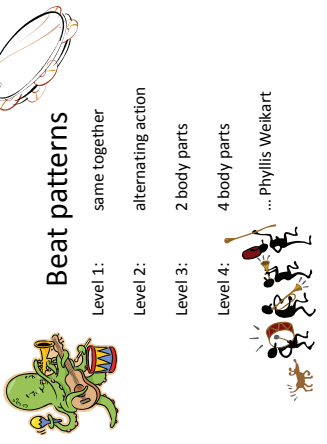


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Beat patterns

- Level 1: same together
- Level 2: alternating action
- Level 3: 2 body parts
- Level 4: 4 body parts


... Phyllis Weikart



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In 1945, the average American student between the ages of 6 – 14 had a written vocabulary of about 25,000 words. ... That WRITTEN vocabulary has dropped to about 10,000 words.

... students must learn more than 88,000 words by 9th grade to read the textbooks that they are now required to read. ... (Nagy & Anderson) 1984




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Sources:

The Threads of Reading ...
Karen Tankersley

Rhymes and Reasons –
Literature and Language Play
for Phonological Awareness
... Michael F Opitz



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