

## Cat, Rat, Mat... I Can Rhyme!

### Learning to rhyme and repeat word patterns helps your child:

- Understand the natural rhythm of language
- Increase knowledge of letter sounds
- Become a stronger reader in later years

### Ideas to try with your child:

- Play a game of “rhyming toss” with a small ball. As you toss the ball, shout out a word such as **cat** as your child catches the ball. When he tosses the ball back to you, he shouts a word that rhymes with **cat** such as: **rat, mat, fat, sat**. Go back and forth as many times as you can and then start a new set of rhyming words.
- Play a rhyming picture match game. You can draw your own pictures, cut them out of old magazines or download pictures. Here is a link for rhyming puzzle cards.  
<http://cf.ltkcdn.net/home-school/files/586-RhymingCards.pdf>

### If your child is struggling:

- Read stories with repetitive text. One popular title found at libraries and bookstores is Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. The story repeats itself through out the book so your child will quickly memorize this and begin to “read” it to you. Hearing the repeated words helps your child understand the natural rhythm of language.
- Enjoy making up silly, nonsense rhymes together. Dr. Seuss books such as Wocket in My Pocket will give you ideas of nonsense words.

### Going further:

Make a rhyming basket together. Pick one item such as **truck** and put in a basket. Then find something around the house that rhymes with that word such as **duck**. You may also use pictures found in a newspaper or magazine that rhyme with each other. After all things are gathered in a basket, write the names of objects as pictured below.



The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children Ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Enjoy repeating rhyming words and word patterns in songs, poems or stories.” *Communicating (Speaking and listening)*, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 59

