



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:

1. 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.

