

## RAISING KIDS WHO READ — Tip Sheet #8

# RHYME TIME

Rhyming words help children who are just starting to read. Rhymes help children sound out words on a page and see how they have the same endings. The repetition of rhymes also helps children remember what is being read. And rhymes can be fun!

There are many ways to find and use rhymes with beginning readers. All of these can be found in your local library and on billboards, in ads and on the radio.

Jump rope rhymes  
Rhyming poetry  
Hymns  
Popular songs

Nursery rhymes  
Lullabies  
Advertising jingles  
Cheers at sporting events

Schools often give young readers words that rhyme so that they can see the patterns:

**cook – book – look**

Working with these rhyming words helps new readers figure out what part of the word is different and what part is the same. They are doing this with their eyes, and also with their ears, as they hear the rhyming patterns.

Rhymes also can make us laugh and make us think, all at the same time. Thinking up rhyming words together is a great activity to do when you are on a trip or waiting in line. It also turns the work of learning to recognize words, into play. “How many words can you think of that rhyme with “book?” (or “fan” or “deep” or “stop”...)

Let new readers include any words that sound the same, even if the endings are spelled differently. As readers get more practice, they can start noticing and playing with words that sound the same but are spelled differently. (your-you’re, right-write, to-too-two)

As you read nursery rhymes together, listen to songs and play rhyming games. Your child will begin to notice and tell you about all the rhymes they see and hear. You are raising a reader!

This tip sheet is being brought to you by the YMCA. YMCAs across Canada serve over 500,000 children in various programs. YMCA Canada is a member of the Abundant Assets Alliance, a partnership of YMCA Canada, the YMCA of the USA and Search Institute, working together to help young people obtain the 40 developmental assets that they need in order to thrive. To learn more about the developmental assets and how you can help your child build these assets, visit [www.abundantassets.org](http://www.abundantassets.org).

One of the developmental assets that helps young people thrive is “Reading for Pleasure.” This series of tip sheets and the resource, *Raising Kids Who Read*, created by YMCA Canada, helps adults build this asset with the young people in their lives. To download copies of any of these resources, go to [http://www.ymca.ca/eng\\_ycdaresources.htm#Res6](http://www.ymca.ca/eng_ycdaresources.htm#Res6).



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