



Literacy Grab & Go Preschool (3 - 4-year-olds)

Activity Title: Rhyme and Toss

Domain: Language

Activity Purpose: Play this fun game to add a little learning to your next game of catch.

Rationale

Word families are groups of words that have a common feature or pattern. For example *-at* in sat, pat, hat. Rhyming helps children experience and make words that sound alike by focusing on the end sounds.

Materials: toy, paper ball, or other object

- Description of Activity:**
1. This game is arranged around word families. You'll pass a toy, paper ball, or any other object you want to toss back and forth as you name rhyming words within word families. Keep going back and forth until one person can't think of a rhyming word or says a non-word.
 - For example:
 - Adult: The sound is /at/, I will add an /s/ sound to the beginning to make, sat. (tosses ball)
 - Child: Fat rhymes with sat. (tosses ball)
 - Adult: Hat rhymes with sat. (tosses ball)
 - Child: Pat? Is that a word? Pat rhymes with sat. (tosses ball)
 - Adult: Yes, Pat is short for Patricia or describes how you can touch something.
 - Wat rhymes with sat. (tosses ball)
 - Child: Wat. That's not a word! (holds ball)
 - Adult: You're right!
 2. You can either keep going with the *-at* word family or move on to another word family. Also, you can write down 2-3 of the words you and your child said during the game so your child can start to associate the sounds with the different letters.
 3. Other word family options are: *-ack* (ex., tack, back, sack), *-ake* (take, bake, rake), *-an* (pan, tan, Dan), *-ap* (slap, gap, dap), *-ay* (day, play, say)

Lagniappe: This is a fun outdoor activity and can be a way to add some easy language practice to your exercise.

Rather than tossing a ball, try bouncing a ball up and down as you recite your favorite rhyme. Reciting rhymes like *Miss Mary Mack* or *Little Jack Horner* will help your child recognize matching sounds and rhyming words.