

Rhyming Activities

Quick rhyme challenges that build an ear for word families.

Children who hear rhyme easily begin to notice that words are built from parts. That is the first step toward reading whole word families at a glance.

Five-minute challenges

- **Rhyme or not?** Say two words. Child gives thumbs up or down. (**bat** / **hat** = up, **bat** / **cup** = down)
- **Finish my rhyme.** “I saw a cat sitting on a ____.”
- **Rhyme basket.** Grab 5 objects around the house and find a rhyme for each.
- **Song swap.** Sing a familiar song, replacing the last word of each line with a rhyme.
- **Nonsense rhymes count!** **zat** and **vat** are wins — they prove your child hears the pattern.

Word families to practice

Family	Words
-at	bat, cat, fat, hat, mat, pat, rat, sat, that, flat
-an	ban, can, fan, man, pan, ran, tan, van, plan, than
-ig	big, dig, fig, jig, pig, rig, wig, twig, sprig
-op	cop, hop, mop, pop, top, chop, drop, stop, shop
-ug	bug, dug, hug, jug, mug, rug, tug, plug, snug
-ell	bell, fell, sell, tell, well, yell, shell, smell, spell
-ick	kick, lick, pick, sick, tick, brick, stick, trick, chick
-ake	bake, cake, lake, make, rake, take, wake, shake, snake
-ight	fight, light, might, night, right, sight, tight, bright
-ain	main, pain, rain, train, brain, chain, plain, stain

Make it a game

Set a one-minute timer and see how many words your family can name in a single word family. Beat your record tomorrow.