

Workshop 2

Parent Time Handout

Playing with Sounds and Words

Many activities that focus on playing with sounds and words can be done anytime, anywhere. Your family does not need special materials or a lot of time. So, play with sounds and words in the car, in a waiting room, on the bus, or while giving your child a bath. Remember, playing with sounds and words helps your child build skills that support learning to read.

Singing	Sing songs with your children. Talk about the sounds in the songs	Suggestions: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" "The Wheels on the Bus" "We're Going on a Bear Hunt"
Listening	Play listening games. Brainstorm sounds that can be made with your body. Examples are clapping hands, stomping feet, or patting legs. Then make two sounds and ask if the sounds are alike or different.	
Chanting	Recite familiar chants with your child. Talk about the rhythm. Add claps or pats to help your child focus on the sounds of the language.	Suggestions: "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed" "Humpty Dumpty" "A My Name Is" "Pat-a-Cake"
Rhyming	Think of rhyming words. What words rhyme with _____? Remember, nonsense words are okay. Listen for and point out rhyming words when you sing songs, recite chants, or read books together.	
Reciting Tongue Twisters	Recite tongue twisters, such as "Peter Piper" or "She Sells Seashells." Talk about the sounds that are repeated. Make up your own tongue twisters. Start with a name and come up with words that begin with the same sound. Example: Jon just jumps during June.	What tongue twisters can you remember? Have fun making up new tongue twisters!

