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Recite a series of rhyming words, and ask your child to say *Stop!* when he hears a word that does not rhyme.

Your child will practice focusing on the sounds that occur at the ends of words.

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### Why this is important

Your child will practice hearing rhyme patterns and eliminating words that do not fit. Recognizing rhymes is another step in understanding how words are put together. Games that help your child focus on the individual sounds of language also help him to develop skills that will be useful in learning to read and spell.

### What you do

- Invite your child to play a rhyming game with you. Begin by repeating words he has heard in a nursery rhyme or favorite book such as “*Hey Diddle Diddle:*” *Dock, clock, tock. All those words rhyme. Now I’m going to say more words. But one won’t rhyme with the others. When you hear that word tell me to stop. Are you ready? Dock, clock, rock, lock, apple.*
- Repeat the words if he does not tell you to stop at *apple*.
- Use nonsense words occasionally to make the game more fun.
- Place the non-rhyming word at different points in the sequence so that your child will not expect it.

### Another idea

Invite your child to be the leader and list rhyming words and one that does not rhyme.