



**Level:** Preschool

**Cost:** None

**Mess factor:** None

**Suggested room in the house:** In the car



Tired of the “Are we there yet?” kinds of questions? Well, try this rhyming and writing activity to keep a day full of errands or a long road trip fun and educational.

### Your child will experience:

- Rhyming
- Writing letters and words
- Building vocabulary



### Materials:

- No materials necessary

### Beginning:

Try this rhyming activity next time you have bored children riding in the car. Warning..... In order to make this activity successful, you'll need to be able to think of and say silly sounding words.

Tell children that you are going to play a rhyming game. They will shout out a word and you will think of something that rhymes with it.



### Middle:

Listen for a word and then think of at least one word that has the same ending sound, or that rhymes! If children say “car,” then you could respond with “bar” or “far.” You can respond with as many real rhyming words as you can, but what makes this game fun is when you say nonsense words. So, go ahead and say “bar” and “far” but keep going with “rar”, “zar” and “nar!”

### End:

Keep going until your child tires of the game.



### Cleanup:

No cleaning up is required.

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### Younger children:



- Don't worry if your child isn't speaking yet. You can do this game on your own and know that you are building important language skill. Just simply say, "Oh look at you, Jenna — you are holding your bottle. Bottle, mottle, zottle!"
- One way to draw children's attention to rhyming words is to sing or tell nursery rhymes. So as you are riding in the car with a baby or small child, sing some of the classics. Here are some suggestions:
  - Hickory Dickory Dock
  - Humpty Dumpty
  - Jack and Jill
  - Baa Baa Black Sheep
  - Mary Had a Little Lamb
  - A-B-C song



### Older children:

- Ask children to read words off a sign and then you think of a rhyming word.
- Tell children a word and ask them to think of something that rhymes with it.
- Ask them to identify the ending sound. For example, the ending sound of cat is *a-t*. The ending sound of fish is *s-h*.

### Hints:



- This activity builds an important skill called phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness means children understand that every word that is spoken is made up of individual sounds. For example, cat is made up of three sounds: /k/ /a/ /t/. Once they understand about the sounds that represent each letter or combination of letters, they can start changing those sounds to create new words.

### More!



- Read rhyming books. Here are some suggestions:
  - *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
  - *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont
  - *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin Jr.
  - *Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood

### Special Needs Accommodations:

- Give children a book to pick words from. It doesn't matter whether they can read the words or not; they can simply tell you the letters and you can pronounce the words for them.
- Use children's name and other words that are familiar to them for rhyming.
- Start with one-syllable words like *cat*, *wish*, *sit* to keep it simple.