

### **Benefits of enjoying rhymes with children**

Rhymes are much more than simply catchy and memorable. Here are over 20 benefits of teaching rhymes to children:

1. Listening/repeating a rhyme develops memorizing skills while a child is having fun.
2. Rhymes with a rhythmic pattern help a child recognize sound patterns that form a basis for learning word families where the words have the same endings, but different beginnings, such as hat, bat, and cat.

Dr. Seuss used that concept in writing the Cat in the Hat-237 words-223 are among the first words children learn to read

3. Rhymes can teach basic skills, such as counting with taught with the familiar ditty, "One, two, buckle my shoe."
4. Children learn to listen through rhyme. They develop auditory learning skills as they listen to rhymes and learn from them. They hear words connected as sentences and mini-stories in some cases. These are building blocks for speech and communication.
5. Working on phonemes helps children discern differences. For example, leaning that hat rhymes with bat but not bag; trains the child to distinguish the sounds and find the similarities and differences.
6. Rhymes can help a child learn faith, by setting a story or truth to rhyme.
7. Rhymes also promote recalling facts, such as the days in the month, because they are easy to remember. 30 days hath April June and September...
8. Many rhymes include movement, such as finger plays or action rhymes. These help a child develop motor skills and coordination.
9. Finger plays are fine motor skills and help a child with hand-eye coordination needed later in holding a pencil and writing.

10. Action rhymes involve the whole body and get a child moving and using arms and legs for gross motor development and coordination. These simple movements also promote coordination needed in sports and dance. (Head, shoulder, knees and toes)
11. Many of the action rhymes involve groups of children. Such activity promotes social skills. Simple rhymes, such as Ring-around-the-rosy, encourage children to move in unison and speak together.
12. The laughter generated with rhyme helps children begin to interact socially. Clapping and syllables
13. Counting the phonemes in words, as in clapping to a rhyme, is a precursor to recognizing syllables. Studies conclude that phonemic awareness is key to learning to read. The sounds and rhyming words that engage a young child are beneficial for cognitive development.
14. Chanting rhymes with movement helps children expend energy and yet captures their minds as they focus on the words and meaning. This makes it a good way to transition into a calmer activity and other learning.
15. Performing a rhyme helps a child develop confidence and the ability to speak in front of others. (#1 fear of many people)
16. Rhymes entertain children and help them wait more patiently.
17. Rhymes increase vocabulary/great way to introduce words
18. Rhymes can help children understand routines and the world around them (*This is the way we brush our teeth; Teddy bear go goodnight*)
19. Teaches safety (*Ten Little Monkeys*).
20. Using rhyme taps into various learning styles and helps develop learning styles
21. Develops learning styles—listening develops auditory learning, actions develop kinesthetic learning, and finger plays develop visual learning.

Finger plays and props with rhymes develop tactile learning  
Group rhymes develops social/global learning  
Discussing the rhymes develops analytical learning

21. Introduces a child to poetry.

22. Rhyme can develop positive personality traits, such as ones seen in the Land of Pooh:

Tigers love to show off and perform rhymes and like action ones best

Rabbits thump and tap in time/like ones that make sense/motivate them to

Eyeores listen until they can do it perfectly/ hesitate to join group rhyming

Poohs want to sit back, enjoy the sounds, repeating the words