



## Sound Games to Play at Home

It is very important for both successful reading and spelling that children are able to hear and identify rhyme, syllables and sounds in words. There are many fun ways you can help your child to do this:

- Play “I Spy”.
- Generate rhyming strings of words, eg cat, sat, hat, mat; bear, hair, care etc.
- Read rhymes and poems and identify rhyming words – can child change the rhyme, eg “Jack and Jill went up the hill ...” to “Dad and Sam went on the tram ...”
- Clap out syllables, eg Christopher: Chris – to – pher; computer: com – pu – ter
- Play Word Ladders; can you change the word ‘west’ to ‘belt’ by changing one letter at a time.
- Play “Simon Says” but sound out the instruction, eg “Simon says touch your l-e-g.”
- Generate funny animal names, eg Ricky Gervais’s ‘Funnimals’. Can child make up their own?
- Make up silly sentences/tongue twisters using alliteration (same beginning sounds), eg She Sells Sea Shells on the Sea Shore.

## Writing at Home

As well as giving your child opportunities to see and hear you reading at home, it is important that you model writing as a useful form of communication. They can help you in this:

- Write cards, letters, emails, texts to family and friends.
- Keep a diary.
- Write shopping lists.
- Encourage child to make little books of their own. These could be for stories or linked to personal interests, eg favourite football team, pop star, cars etc.
- Copy out favourite short stories, rhymes, poems or jokes.

***But remember...*** most children work very hard at school and the last thing they need is for home to be the same, so activities should be kept short and based on fun and play.