

## Nonsense Word Play

Children like to play with sounds, and the more they play, the more attuned they become to the sounds of our language. Nonsense word play also offers an opportunity to build on your child's sense of humor – which has been tied to greater creativity in later years (McGhee).

- Use familiar alliterative rhymes changing the beginning sound. Examples:
  - Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater. Meter, Meter, Mumpkin Eater. Beter, Beter, Bumpkin Eater...
  - Wee, Willie, Winkie. See, Silly, Sinkie. Fee, Fillie, Finkie...
  - Hip, Hip, Hooray! Nip, Nip, Nooray! Zip, Zip, Zooray!...
  - Tic, Tac, Toe. Wic, Wac, Woe. Pic, Pac, Poe...
- Use familiar names or words changing the beginning sound. Examples:
  - Mary. Fary, Dary, Lary, Tary...
  - Mommy. Dommy, Lommy, Wommy...
  - Ketchup. Betchup, Setchup, Petchup...
  - Hamburger. Ramburger, Bamburger, Gamburger...

*Source: McGhee, Paul E. Children's Humor is FUNdamental to Pre-K Classrooms.  
<http://www.bankstreet.edu/upk/humor.html>*



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