

Rhyming pictures...

On the following pages you will find sets of four pictures. They are ideal for introducing the concept of rhyming words to students in small groups or individually.

You have the option of using the cards with or without the words written underneath. For a student who is in the early stages of rhyming, matching the color-coded letters underneath the pictures can give a clue to aid success. However, do ensure that students are able to recognize rhyme without the words when their confidence grows.

The following rhyme discrimination activities increase in complexity so move through them gradually as the students begin to get a feel for rhyme. Some children may need to spend several weeks at the early tasks depending on their aptitude for rhyme and how often they have opportunity to practice the skill.

1. Introducing the rhyming pictures and sets

Choose a set of four rhyming pictures and turn them face down on the table. Ask the student to name the picture and say the word together. Emphasize the rhyming ending.

Turn over a second picture in the set and repeat. Then say the two words together, pointing out the similarity in them and explaining that this is because they rhyme.

Gradually introduce all four pictures and say them several times one after another asking the child or children to join in so that they begin to hear the rhyming pattern in the set.

2. Decide if a pair of pictures you have chosen rhyme or don't rhyme

Place two picture cards on the table in pairs. Say each word carefully whilst emphasizing the rhyming part of the word and wondering out loud ...

“I wonder if these two words rhyme?
tree and bee.

Do they sound the same at the end?
tree and bee.

Yes they do - tree and bee rhyme!”

3. Choose the odd one out from four pictures

Lay four pictures out on the table and explain that one picture is the odd one out because it doesn't rhyme with the others.

Ask the student to name each picture and then repeat the name after them, with the emphasis on the rhyming part of the word.

If they are able to select the correct one, move on to a more challenging task. If not then help them by wondering out loud as you did with rhyming pairs above.

4. Make up rhyming sentences using all the words from one set

Choose a set of four rhyming pictures and make up silly sentences together.

Try to use all four words in the sentence. So for example you might choose the set containing tree, bee, pea and key and make a sentence such as

“The buzzy bee couldn't find his key so he ate a green pea and buzzed to the very top of a high tree.”

5. Finding a set of four pictures that rhyme

There are two variations of this game. If you are playing with an individual student, choose a set of rhyming pictures and several other non-rhyming pictures. Spread the cards out face up on the table.

Choose one rhyming picture to start with and ask the student to find the other three in the set from among the group of pictures.

With a small group of students you can play “Happy Families” by selecting one set of pictures for each student and shuffling them to mix them together. Deal four cards to each player and then have them take turns to ask each other for the cards they need to complete their rhyming set.

With younger students you may want to make this easier by telling each child which set they are collecting in this game rather than letting them compete.

6. Finding other words that rhyme with a set

Choose a set of four rhyming words and name them together. Then ask the student if he / she can think of any other words that rhyme with that set?

Some students will move onto generating rhymes like this easily but for those that don't you can give clues by suggesting an initial sound.

“Bee, pea, tree and key – what other words rhyme with these?”

“I'm thinking of a word that rhymes with bee and it begins with /s/”

“/s/ - /ee/, what word does that make?”

“That's right, it makes see and see rhymes with this group listen - see, bee, pea, tree and key.”