

Alliteration Awareness

1. Build An Alliteration Repertoire

Read stories and rhymes to children that include alliterative phrases such as:

Clickity-clack, clickity-clack

Clip, clop, clip clop

Fee, fie, fo, fum

Fine feathered friends

Hip-hip-hooray

Miss Mary Mack

Peter, Peter, pumpkin-eater

Plink, plank, plunk

Snip, Snap, Snurr

Tick-tack-toe

Tom Tip Top

Wee Willie Winkie

2. Fill in the Missing Alliterations

When reading familiar stories and rhymes that include alliterative phrases, note their beginning sounds, invite children to say them with you, or pause so the children fill them in. For example, you might read or tell *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. "The first billy goat started across the bridge. How did his feet go on the bridge?" The children say "Trip, trap, trip, trap." "Yes" you might comment, "and all those words start with the /t/ sound."

3. Substitute New Alliterations for Old

When reading familiar stories and rhymes that include alliterative phrases, substitute new beginning sounds in familiar alliterative phrases. For example, you might say "Here's a different way to say Wee Willie Winkie -- with the /m/ sound at the beginning: "Mee Millie Minkie ran through the town." Or, "What if we said Hip-hip-hooray starting with the /b/ sound instead of the /h/ sound. We could say 'Three cheers for outside time! Bip-bip-booray!" Once the children have caught on, see if they can offer a new beginning sound for a familiar alliterative phrase.

4. Do It When You Hear the Alliteration

Ask children to choose an action. When they hear someone's name and a word that starts with the same sounds as the name, they get to do the action. For example, after the children choose jumping, you might say "When you hear someone's name and a word that starts with the same sound, jump. But be careful. I might try to trick you! Here goes: Donut, Sue (Pause) Tree, Crystal. (Pause) Mop, Matt."

5. Make Up Name-Based Alliterations

Make up alliterative phrases that start with the initial sounds in children's names. Be sure to emphasize the **SOUND**, rather than the letter. For example, you might say "I'm thinking of some words that start with /j/ sound like the /j/ sound at the beginning on Jimmy's name -Jimmy jumping jack. What are some other words that start with /j/, like Jimmy?" Here some other sample starters:

Darren danger dive

Rudy red ring

Kara candle cup

Sara sun sip

Travis tremble tree

William window wagon

Shanika shim shine

Anna animal ant

Invite children to make up their own name-based alliterations.

6. Play Alliterative "I spy" or "I'm thinking of"

You might start this game by saying, for example, "I see something that starts with the /b/ sound. I see a **big ball**. What else can you see that starts with a /b/ sound?"

"Brios," says Anna, so you add that to the list.

"We see a big ball and Brios. Anything else?"

Here are some other ideas for starters:

"I spy a **dangerous dinosaur**"

"I spy a **purple pencil**"

"I'm looking at **my magic mirror.**"

Source: *High/Scope Extensions*, March-April 2002

More Alliteration Activities

- Play **silly word games**, such as saying everyone's name with the same letter (e.g. the letter L would be Susie/Lusie; Mary/Lary; Sandy/Landy, etc.)
- Use a **child's name** to make up an alliteration. For example: Brett bought bottles. Hillary hired hairy hippos.
- **Tongue twisters** can also be used to illustrate and practice alliteration. One example can be: Bertha blew big blue bubbles. Greta Gruber grabbed a group of grapes. Start with simple ones, then add repetitions or length to make them more challenging.
- **Sorting objects** from around the room into a bag or basket according to initial sound.
- **Make a picture book** to illustrate alliteration and early numeracy For example, 1 wiggly worm, 2 terrible tigers, etc.
- **Finish short sentences** with alliterative words. Ask children to come up with words that have the same starting sound. For example funny (fish, farmer) or zany (zoo, zebra).
- **Isolate and repeat the beginning sound of a word** so that children can hear the sound of the letter. For example, S-S-Sally s-s-sells s-s-seashells by the s-s-seashore.
- **Come up with descriptors that have the same starting sound** as the foods you are eating. For example, tasty tomatoes; leafy lettuce; sassy strawberries, etc.

Some tongue twisters that also illustrate alliteration:

- Angela Abigail Applewhite ate anchovies and artichokes.
- Bertha Bartholomew blew big, blue bubbles.
- Clever Clifford Cutter clumsily closed the closet clasps.
- Dwayne Dwiddle drew a drawing of dreaded Dracula.
- Elmer Elwood eluded eleven elderly elephants.
- Floyd Flingle flipped flat flapjacks.
- Greta Gruber grabbed a group of green grapes.
- Hattie Henderson hated happy healthy hippos.
- Ida Ivy identified the ivory iris.
- Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.
- Karl Kessler kept the ketchup in the kitchen.
- Lila Ledbetter lugged a lot of little lemons.
- Milton Mallard mailed a mangled mango.
- Norris Newton never needed new noodles.
- Patsy planter plucked plump, purple, plastic plums.
- Quinella Quist quite quickly quelled the quarreling quartet.
- Randy Rathbone wrapped a rather rare red rabbit.
- Shelly Sherman shivered in a sheer, short, shirt.
- Trina Tweety tripped two twittering twins under a twiggy tree.
- Uri Udall usually used his unique, unusual unicycle.
- Vicky Vinc viewed a very valuable vase.
- Walter Whipple warily warned the weary warrior.
- Xerxes Xenon expected to xerox extra x-rays.
- Yolana Yvonne Yarger yodeled up yonder yesterday.
- Zigmund Zane zig-zagged through the zany zoo zone.

Tongue Twisters

From: The Reading Teacher's Book of Lists, Fifth Edition 2006. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Tongue twisters are great fun for all ages. Try a different one each week. Tongue twisters are great practice for auditory awareness, sound discrimination, and articulation. They can be especially helpful for students who are learning English as a second language. Many of these tongue twisters are used by actors and announcers as elocution exercises.

Repeaters (try saying these three times quickly.)

A regal rural ruler	Pug puppy
Baboon bamboo	Red leather, yellow leather
Cheap ship trips	Smashed shrimp chips
Crisco crisps crusts	Three free throws
Girl gargoyle, guy gargoyle	Tiny orangutan tongues
Greek grapes	Toy boats
Knapsack strap	Truly plural
Lemon liniment	Urgent detergent

One Liners - fun for all ages!

- A box of mixed biscuits, a mixed biscuit box.
- A noisy noise annoys an oyster.
- Andy ran from the Andes to the Indies in his undies.
- Betty Botter bought some butter. "But," she said, "This butter's bitter. If I buy some better butter and mix it with the bitter butter, it will make the bitter butter better."
- A big black bug bit a big black bear and the big black bear bled blood.

- A big bug bit the little beetle but the little beetle bit the big bug back.
- Black bugs bleed black blood.
- Do drop in at the Dewdrop Inn.
- A flea and a fly few up in a flue. Said the flea, "Let us fly." Said the fly "Let us flee!" so they flew through a flaw in the flue.
- For fine fish fillets, phone Phil.
- Friday's five fresh fish specials
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
- Is there a pleasant peasant present?
- Mrs. Smith's Fish Sauce Shop
- Seven silly Santas slid on the slick snow.
- Seven silly swans swam silently seaward.
- She sells seashells by the seashore, and the shells she sells are seashells.
- Sheep shouldn't sleep in a shack. Sheep should sleep in a shed.
- Silly Sally slid down a slippery slide.
- Six sharp smart sharks
- Six sick snakes sit by the sea.
- Six thick thistle sticks
- Strong sharks sink ships.
- A tree toad loved a she-toad that live up in a tree. She was a three-toed three toad, but a two-toed toad was he.
- Ten tiny tin trains toot ten times.
- The big black-backed bumblebee
- The cat catchers can't catch caught cats.
- The myth of Miss Muffet
- The sheiks' sixth sheep's sick.
- The sun shines on shop signs.
- Three free thugs set three thugs free.
- Which witch wished which wicked wish?
- Whistle for the thistle sifter.
- On two thousand acres, too tangled for tilling, where thousands of thorn trees grew thrifty and thrilling, Theophilus Twistle, less thrifty than some, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb.
- Two witches bought two wrist watches, but which witch wore which wrist watch?