



THE READING HOUSE



Rhyme Reading

“Children seem naturally drawn to poetry - it's some combination of the rhyme, rhythm, and the words themselves.” - Jack Prelutsky, American Writer of Children's Poetry

Supplies: Storybook

Preparation: None

This strategy is so simple that I almost chose not to include it in this book. But when I thought of all of the times I've used it and its success with almost every reader, I realized I had to share it.

As Jack Prelutsky indicated in his quote, children are drawn to poetry and rhyme. Recognizing and hearing rhymes comes naturally to most children, even those who struggle with learning to read.

When your child is reading to you and gets stuck on a word, give him a word that rhymes with the one he's having trouble decoding. Let's look at this sentence for example:

On the way home, Jacob dropped his lunch box.

If the word *lunch* is the difficult one, say to your child, "It rhymes with **bunch**." It is that simple! And it's a strategy that can be easily used for any level of learning. Make sure your learner understands that when words rhyme, the word endings sound alike but do not have to be spelled alike (i.e., *plane* and *rain*).

Read through a whole story giving rhyming examples for the words he has difficulty reading. It won't take very long for your reader to catch on to the strategy. He will also begin to notice word families for those rhyming words that *are* spelled similarly (i.e., *treat* and *eat*). As simple as this strategy is, the benefits are magnificent!