



Photo by Andrea Piacquadio on Pexels

Rhyme Detective Challenge

 Language Arts •  30 min •  Ages 4-5 • Grade K

This lesson challenges young learners to become 'rhyme detectives' by finding pairs of words that sound alike. Through hands-on exploration with common objects, children will develop an ear for phonetic patterns and build early literacy skills.

Our goal is for your child to identify rhyming words based on their ending sounds, sort common objects into rhyming pairs, and express understanding of what makes words rhyme.

What You Need

Toy Cat • Small Hat • Toy Car • Star Cutout • Toy Ball • Small Block



Scan To Tailor

Every child learns differently, and this is just the baseline.

Scan to jump into the app and easily tailor this lesson to match your child's exact learning level and see how Mai will guide this lesson.



Ready for more adventures? Explore our **Sparks Hub** in the app

Lesson Blueprint

A simple, hands-on lesson that guides your child through curiosity, exploration, and reflection.



Mai's Tips

1. **For this age group, focus on the *sound* of the rhyme rather than explaining spelling rules:** Emphasize listening and vocalizing.
 2. **If the child struggles, don't correct directly:** Instead, say the rhyming words aloud with exaggerated ending sounds and ask, 'Do you hear that sound?'
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Prep Before Session

1. Gather the materials and choose a safe, comfortable place for the activity.
 2. Read through the lesson once so you know where the child will make predictions, test ideas, and reflect.
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Introduction 5 Min

1. Engage your child by introducing the concept of words that sound alike. Observe their initial reaction and encourage them to think creatively without providing direct answers.

2. Rhyming words are like sound buddies! They sound super similar at the end. Listening for these similar sounds helps us hear patterns in words, which is a key part of learning to read!
3. Ask them:
4. "Have you ever noticed how some words just **sing** together?"
5. "What do you think makes two words sound like they're buddies?"

 **Done when:** Child expresses initial curiosity or makes a guess about rhyming.



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2 Explore & Plan: Gather Your Rhyme Clues! 8 Min

1. Help your child gather the specific objects needed for the activity. If a particular item isn't available, substitute it with one from the suggested list. Once all items are collected, place them in front of your child. Encourage them to connect the objects to the idea of 'sound friends' or 'rhyme detectives'.
2. Ask them:
3. "What do you think we might do with these items?"
4. "How could these be our 'sound friends' for our mission?"

 **Done when:** All materials are gathered and placed in front of the child, and they are ready for the next step.



3 Discussion 6 Min

1. Ask your child to pick up the 'HAT' and 'CAT'. Have them say each word aloud clearly, emphasizing the ending sounds. Model listening carefully for those sounds. Repeat this process with the 'CAR' and 'STAR'.
2. Rhyming words have the same 'ending sound'. That's the part you hear at the very end of the word. Paying attention to these ending sounds helps us find which words are 'sound buddies'.
3. Ask them:
4. "Do HAT and CAT sound the same at the end?"
5. "How about CAR and STAR? What do you notice about their sounds?"
6. "Which part of the word sounds the same?"

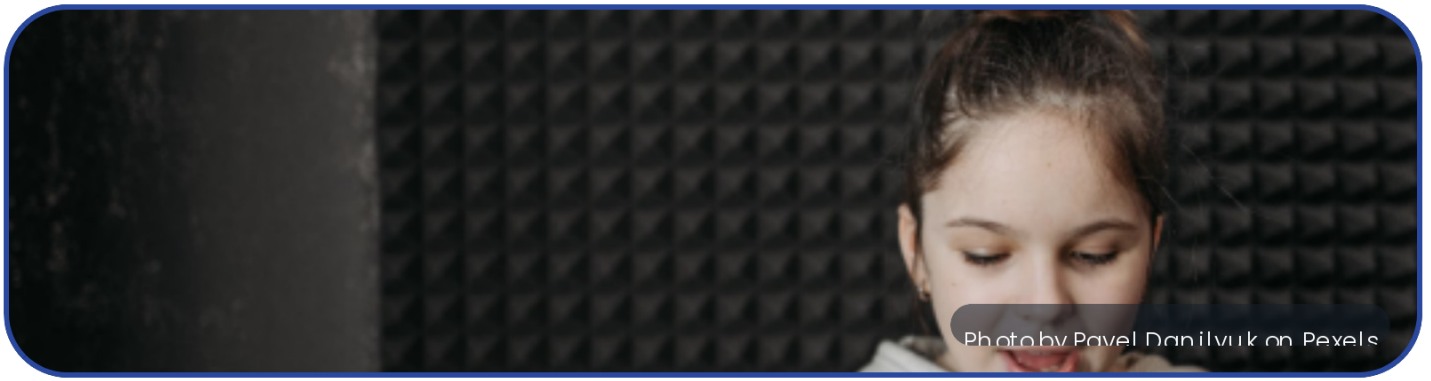
 **Done when:** Child can identify the similarity in the ending sounds of the provided examples (e.g., 'cat' and 'hat').



4 Activity 9 Min

1. Guide your child to begin sorting the objects. Encourage them to pick up one item, say its name, and then try to find another item that sounds just like it at the end. A 'rhyming pair' means two words that have the same ending sound. Your mission is to find these pairs!
2. If they struggle, prompt them by saying one word and asking, "Which one of these sounds like [word]?" Avoid directly pairing items for them. Celebrate their successful matches as they find them.
3. Ask them:
4. "Can you put all the rhyming friends together in pairs?"

 **Done when:** Child has successfully grouped most of the objects into rhyming pairs.



5 Summary 2 Min

1. Praise your child's effort and success in finding the rhyming pairs. Engage them in a short reflection about the activity. Rhyming words add a fun musical quality to songs and poems, making them more enjoyable to listen to and remember!
2. Ask them:
3. "How did it feel to find all those sound friends?"
4. "Where else do you think we might hear rhyming words, maybe in a song or a book?"



Done when: Child shares one key takeaway.

Beyond The Lesson

Fuel their curiosity beyond the lesson with bonus sparks.



Table Talk

Songwriters and poets use rhyming words to make songs catchy and poems fun to read!



Did You Know?

Everyday objects can reveal surprising science when we slow down and observe them.



Challenge

Can you think of a new word that rhymes with 'moon' or 'tree'?
How many rhyming words can you say?

Quick Recap Quiz 4 Min

Check what your young scientist remembers. Each question includes a Parent Tip to help them find the answer without giving it away.

1. Which Words Rhyme With Each Other?

 cup, table

 dog, frog



Remind them to listen to the very end of each word.

2. What Makes Words Rhyme?

- ☐ They start with the same letter
- ☒ They sound the same at the end

 Say a rhyming pair like 'cat' and 'hat' and ask 'Which part sounds the same?'

3. If 'star' Rhymes With 'car', What Rhymes With 'cat'?

- ☐ dog
- ☒ hat

 Prompt them to say 'cat' aloud and listen for that ending sound. What other word has the 'at' sound?

4. Where Can We Hear Rhyming Words?

- ☐ Only in school
- ☒ In songs and poems

 Ask if they can think of any songs they know that have rhyming words.