



Rhymes

Rhymes can be a great way to break the ice and have some fun! You can use a welcome song to learn everybody's names, call everyone to eat with a rhyme, or just be silly. Here are a few for you to try. Feel free to create your own actions, rhythm, or verses.

Ickety Dickety

Invite everyone to sit in a circle.
Keep the beat by clapping your hands.

Ickety, dickety, bumble bee,
Won't you say your names for me?
"Parent, Baby."
Parent, Baby, those are very nice names.

Continue around the circle until everyone has been introduced.

Choo-Choo Train

See the little choo-choo train
Going down the track arms chugging forward
First it's going forward,
Now it's going back. arms chugging backwards
Can you hear the bell ring, cup ear
Hear the whistle blow?
(Ding-ding! Wooo-wooo!) cup hands to mouth
What a lot of noise it makes cover ears
Everywhere it goes!

Apple Tree

Way up high in the apple tree,
Hands above head
Two little apples smiled at me.
Make two fists
I shook that tree as hard as I could,
Pretend to shake tree
Down came the apples,
Mmm, they were good!
Rub tummy



Developed by the Centre for Family Literacy with support from the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy, Alberta Government.



Crafts

Crafts are great activities for parents and children to do together. Find materials at the dollar store or even in your recycle box.

Memory Game

- Create a game with index cards or squares of construction paper.
- Glue stickers, foam shapes, or draw pictures on each card (remember to create matching pairs).

Paper Plate Puzzle

- Cut a paper party plate into pieces. Choose one with a design on it, or decorate your own.
- The more pieces, the harder the puzzle!
- If you like, glue a magnet strip to the back of each piece, then put it together on the fridge or a cookie sheet.

Spy Bottles

- Fill a clean, dry plastic bottle 2/3 full of uncooked rice or sand.
- Add small trinkets and glue the lid on with hot glue or superglue.
- Ask a friend what treasures they can spy in your bottle.
- Or give your bottle to a baby to shake!

Puppets

- Draw your favourite animals or characters from a story on construction paper or cardstock.
- Cut them out and glue a popsicle stick to the back of each one.
- Put on a puppet show with your popsicle stick puppets!

Bookmarks

- Decorate a sturdy strip of paper with markers, stickers, or glitter glue.



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Games

Get Active

L Hold Races

Use tables, chairs, playground equipment or blankets to make an obstacle course or relay race.

L Organize games for everyone

Play tag or catch. Is there a sport that everyone can play? Remember games like Simon Says, and What Time is It, Mr. Wolf?

L Race or explore as animals

Hop like a bunny. Crawl like an alligator. Swim like a fish. What if you were a bee or a cat?

L Draw a playing field

Use chalk to make hopscotch, a maze, a tightrope for balancing, or a target for throwing balls or beanbags.

Get Together

L Finish a puzzle

Put together jigsaw puzzles or make your own with cereal boxes and pictures from magazines or calendars.

L Make shapes

Form letters, pictures, or numbers using your arms, legs and / or your friends. (Stand straight for an I, or make an H by joining hands with a friend).

L Gather around a table

Bring board games like Scrabble and Battle Ship. Play a memory game. Which card games do you know? Make your own game with some paper, crayons, dice, and small toys or game pieces.

Get Smart

L Look carefully

Play I Spy. Look for colours, shapes, signs, smells, numbers, people, or things in groups of 3 or 4.

L Solve riddles

Find books or printouts with riddles, mazes, connect the dots, word searches, crosswords, hidden pictures, or spot the differences.

L Guess what it is

Play games like 20 Questions,



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Scavenger Hunt

Making the rules

Where will they search?

Make boundaries so that nobody gets lost or hurt in a place you weren't expecting them to go. Get down to child's level beforehand, looking for possible hazards.

Who will they search with?

Have families or adult and child teams search together. Teams could move together inside of a hula-hoop or holding hands!

What are they finding?

Ask teams to collect objects and bring them back to be judged, or use a digital camera to take pictures of what they find.

Who is the winner?

A scavenger hunt doesn't have to be competitive. It's more important that everyone has fun searching.

What is their reward?

After all that searching, teams might be hungry for a snack! Prizes like sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and kits for kites or airplanes provide more activities for families to do together.

Making the list

What will they look for?

Look for items that are common to the area (leaves, rocks, pine cones) or hide things to find (like clues about where to look next). You could have teams and collect the materials they need to create a craft.

How will they know what to find?

An adult or older child on each team can help read a list of words or clues. Consider using pictures, colours, or sounds as hints. Instead of providing a list, you could tell teams what to look for next after they've found each item.

TRY TO FIND SOMETHING...



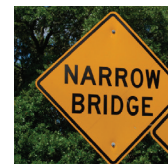
GREEN



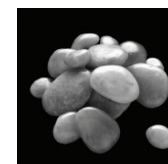
FUZZY



WITH WORDS



HARD



WITH NUMBERS



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Story Centre

A book nook provides a quiet, comfy area to rest and relax. Here are some ideas to help create a cozy space for reading:

- Spread out a big, soft blanket on the grass.
- Pitch a tent and fill it with cushions.
- Group some small chairs together under a tree.
- Use gym mats on the floor for a softer surface.
- Build a fort using sturdy tables and large blankets.
- Try an empty kiddie pool lined with fluffy towels.

Be sure to place your story centre in a low-traffic area so readers can safely relax.

Offer a variety of reading materials for all ages:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| • kids' magazines | • comics |
| • board books | • cookbooks |
| • story books | • joke books |

Invite a special guest to read at your event. Ask the mayor, police chief, librarian, principal, or a friend to share a children's story they enjoy.

Tips for the Storyteller

- Encourage listeners to sit close so they can see the pictures.
- Take your time: read slowly and clearly.
- Ask questions as you read to keep kids involved.
- Don't be afraid to use lots of expression, actions, and sound effects.
- Relax and have fun!



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