

Word Play:

Setting the stage for literacy learning

Why it's important:

Hearing the sounds in words lays the groundwork for reading!

- Hearing the individual sounds in words is called **phonemic awareness**. Phonemic awareness is a critical step in the move towards reading because it attunes us to the parts of words--and the parts of words are called letters!
- When we make hearing the sounds in words into a game we are building a sense of relaxed fun about learning letter sounds.
- **This game focuses on identifying the initial sound in a word.**

Challenge?

Switch it up! Make each new word begin with the last sound of the previous word. This is much more difficult so be patient and don't try it until they are quick with the initial sounds.

The goal is for it to be fun and successful for them!

OR, add a describing word to the item.
marvelous mushrooms; chewy chocolate; sweet cereal



Going to the store...

In this activity you are playing with your child to name things you might find in a store that start with the same sound.

You say:

"I'm going to the store and I'm going to buy some mushrooms!"

Your child responds with:

"I'm going to the store and I'm going to buy some macaroni!"

Take turns with your child generating things you might buy at the store that begin with the "m" sound.

See who gets stumped first!! Then let your child start the next round.