

Parents and Guardians,

Playing word games with your child can reinforce many reading and language skills that are taught more formally in the classroom. Several board games and card games are word-based, and crossword puzzles are available for a variety of skill levels. In addition, there are word games that involve no materials at all and can be played almost anywhere. Below are examples of just a few games that can help your child develop these important skills.

Beginning and Ending Sounds

One person starts the game by saying a word. The next player then has to think of another word that starts with the same letter as the last letter in the first word. For example, if the first person says “hat,” the second person must think of a word that starts with the letter **t**. The second person’s word could be “tiger”. The third word would then start with an **r**. The game continues this way until one person can’t think of a word.

Rhyming Words

One person starts the game by choosing a simple base word that potentially has many words that rhyme with it. The players then take turns saying words that rhyme with that base word. Once all words that rhyme with the base word have been said, a new base word is chosen and the game continues. For example: If the base word is “hip,” rhyming words could be sip, lip, dip, and so on.

Objects A-Z

One way to practice beginning letter sounds is to choose a category and then name 1 thing that starts with each letter of the alphabet within that category. For example, if the category is *animals*, player 1 might say “ant,” player 2 “bat,” player 3 “cat,” and then back to player 1 for “dog”. Play continues through the letter Z for each category. Each player is allowed to pass on a letter 2 times within the category. If all players pass on the same letter, play continues with the next letter.

You can try these word games whenever you have a few spare minutes. They are great for playing in the car or while waiting in line at the store. You can also make up your own games to practice other reading or language skills.

Have fun.

