

Just Five Minutes...

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Some of the keys to learning to read are **noticing sounds in words (developing phonemic awareness)**, **recognizing letters of the alphabet** and **understanding words**. Here are some fun things you can do while driving in the car, taking a walk or just before saying, "Good night." Just five minutes a day spent talking about sounds and words will help to prepare your preschooler for formal reading instruction...

Day One – *'Here are some words that begin with the /m/ sound' (Note: the adult should use the letter **sound** rather than the letter name) 'mat, mitten, mice, magic. Now I am going to say three words to you, which one does not begin with /m/?'*

(1) monkey, magnet, dog (2) elephant, motor, mask (3) moon, cup, mom

Day Two – *'Here are some words that rhyme: pat & sat, sing & string. Rhyming words are words whose endings sound the same. Now I am going to say two words to you, tell me if they rhyme.'*

(1) talk & walk (2) in & out (3) book & took

Day Three – *'These words are opposites; up & down, inside & outside, night & day. Listen carefully to my words. Are they opposites?'*

(1) wet & dry (2) fast & slow (3) happy & cheerful

Day Four – *'Listen to the clues and see if you can discover the word I am thinking of...'*

- (1) 'This word begins with /t/ (Note: the adult should **use the letter sound** rather than the letter name) and is something you use if you want to dry yourself' (towel)
- (2) 'This word begins with /t/ and is something a magician might do' (trick)
- (3) 'This word begins with /t/ and is a creature you might find in a pond' (turtle)

Day Five – *'I am thinking of a letter shape...'*

- (1) This letter could be lower case or upper case. It has only straight lines. The lines cross each other in the middle. (X)
- (2) This is a lower case letter or an upper case letter. It has only one curvy line. It is not quite a circle. (C)
- (3) This letter is upper case. It has two straight lines. One is an up and down line. The other line goes from side to side. The side to side line is on top of the up and down line. (T)

Day Six – *'Here are some words that begin with the /b/ sound' (Note: the adult should use the letter sound rather than the letter name) 'bat, book, brain, boy, boot. Now I am going to say three words to you, which one does not begin with /b/?'*

(1) bake, bicycle, yellow (2) carrots, bunny, button (3) blanket, butter, pillow

Day Seven – *'Here are some words that rhyme: red & bed, man & fan. Now I am going to say two words to you, do they rhyme?'*

(1) Jack & Jill (2) Silly & Billy (3) fat & pat

Day Eight – *'These words are opposites; wet & dry, old & young, open & closed. Listen carefully to my words. Are they opposites?'*

(1) clean & dirty (2) tall & short (3) naughty & bad

Day Nine – *'Listen to the clues and see if you can discover the word I am thinking of...'*

(1) 'This word begins with /f/ (Note: the adult should **use the letter sound** rather than the letter name) and is a part of your body that is near to your ankle (foot)

(2) 'This word begins with /f/ and is something that birds and airplanes can do (fly)

(3) 'This word begins with /f/ and is a number that is bigger than three (four)

Day Ten – *'I spy a letter on the cover of this book or on a license plate or on a street sign'*

