

## Rhyming and Nursery Rhymes

Anytime you read a rhyming book, say a rhyming sentence, or sing a nursery rhyme to your child, you are building these early literacy skills:

- **Language Development:** Your child will learn new words and the rhythm of speech.
- **Social Skills:** When children realize they all know the same rhyme, it builds relationships.
- **A Strong Reader:** When a child can rhyme, reading becomes easier for her.
- **Develop Fine Motor Skills:** When doing finger plays like the “*Itsy Bitsy Spider*” the finger movements improve muscle strength.



**Did You Know?** “Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they’re four years old, they’re usually among the best readers by the time they’re eight.” - Mem Fox, Reading Magic.

## Peanut Butter and Jelly Sushi Rolls



### Ingredients:

- 2 slices of bread
- 1 tablespoon of Jelly
- 1 tablespoon of peanut butter

### Directions:

1. Remove the crust from the bread.
2. Use a rolling pin or large soup can to completely flatten the bread. Spread 1 tablespoon of peanut butter and 1 tablespoon of jelly on each side of the bread.
3. Roll it up.
4. Slice it into 4 pieces.

## Meet a Happy Reader!



Meet Ayan Pradhan, a local child enjoying one of his Ferst books. His mother, Mamalin Nayak, sent the following message to Ferst:

*“I have no words to say thanks to you for this wonderful work. My 4-year-old ... now knows the months very well as he gets new books every month. He eagerly waits for them.”*

Do you have a happy reader too?  
Please let us know. Email us at [muscogeecounty@ferstreaders.org](mailto:muscogeecounty@ferstreaders.org).

Community Partner



## Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too?

Author/Illustrator: Eric Carle  
Harper Collins Publishers

DOES A KANGAROO HAVE A MOTHER, TOO?  
by Eric Carle



**R Repeat the Book:** Repeating gives more chances to learn the vocabulary.

**First Read (events):** Look at the cover, read the title, and say, *“I think this book is about a mother and her babies. Let’s read and find out.”* When you come to the questions, describe what you think by saying, *“Does a lion have a mother, too? I think lion cubs must need mothers to watch them. Let’s find out.”* With excitement, turn the page and read, *“Yes!”* As you read, talk about the pictures. Ask the first read question in the “Ask Questions” section.

**Second Read (emotions):** Look at the cover and say, *“I wonder if animal mothers watch out for their babies like I watch out for you? Let’s read and find out.”* As you read, talk about how many babies there are and how the mothers stay close to them. Use the names of the different animal babies found at the end of the book. Ask the second read question.

**Third Read (retell):** During this read, it is time for your child to join in the reading. Let your child tell you about the animals or guess the next animal in the story. Ask the third read question.

### Vocabulary

Use these words when  
you talk with your child  
this month.

**growl:** a dog’s noise  
intended to scare

**frigid:** very, very cold

**romp:** move around and  
play

**cuddle:** hug or stay  
close to something or  
someone

**stomp:** to put a foot  
down very hard over  
and over

**E Engage and Enjoy:** Using these activities keeps your child’s interest in the story.

Use your voice to emphasize your excitement in discovering the next animal baby. When talking about the animal mothers taking care of their babies, use a soft, loving voice.

**A Ask Questions:** After talking about the book, ask questions to promote deeper thinking.

After the first read, ask, *“Why do mothers have to take care of their babies?”*

After the second read, ask, *“How do you know that animal mothers love their babies?”*

After the third read, ask, *“Which is your favorite animal? Why?”*

**D Do More:** Use other activities to help your child connect vocabulary to their world outside of the story.

On the next page, there are some additional activities which you can do with your child.

# Things to Do

This month's book is all about mothers and their babies.  
Here are activities to use with your child to explore.

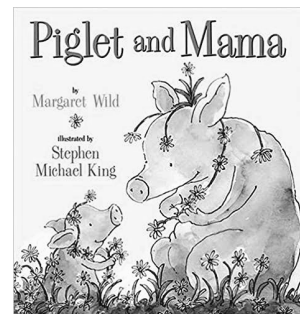
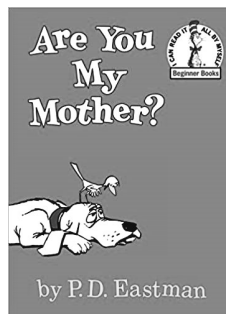
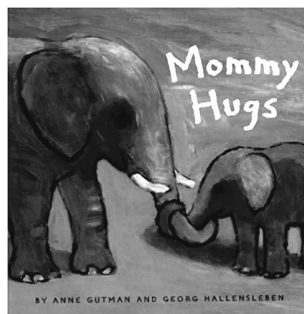
## SEARCH!

Call out animal names in random order and have your child find the picture of that animal in the book: kangaroo, lion, giraffe, penguin, swan, fox, dolphin, sheep, bear, elephant, monkey, deer. Change the game up by using the baby animal names or even a timer to see who can find the animal faster.

## MATCH!

Cut out pictures of adult and baby animals from magazines or print some from the internet. Paste them on index cards to make your own match game. Put the cards with mothers in one stack and the cards with babies in another. Have your child match the baby to its mother. Use any animals which your child might recognize, not just those in the book.

Check out your local library for these and other books  
about animal mothers and babies.



Ferst Readers has adopted and adapted the READ guide format courtesy of:



See the  
R.E.A.D.  
video here

Rollins Center  
for Language & Literacy

A Program of the Atlanta Speech School

Read Right

From the Start

Read with your child every day

## Pre-K Registration Underway

Registration is underway for the Pre-K program in the Muscogee County School District. Apply now if your child is 4 years old or will be before September 1.

*Why PreK?* Preschool changes lives. According to national data, children who attend preschool have higher academic achievement, struggle less in school, and may overcome barriers to learning. They are four times more likely to graduate from high school and college.

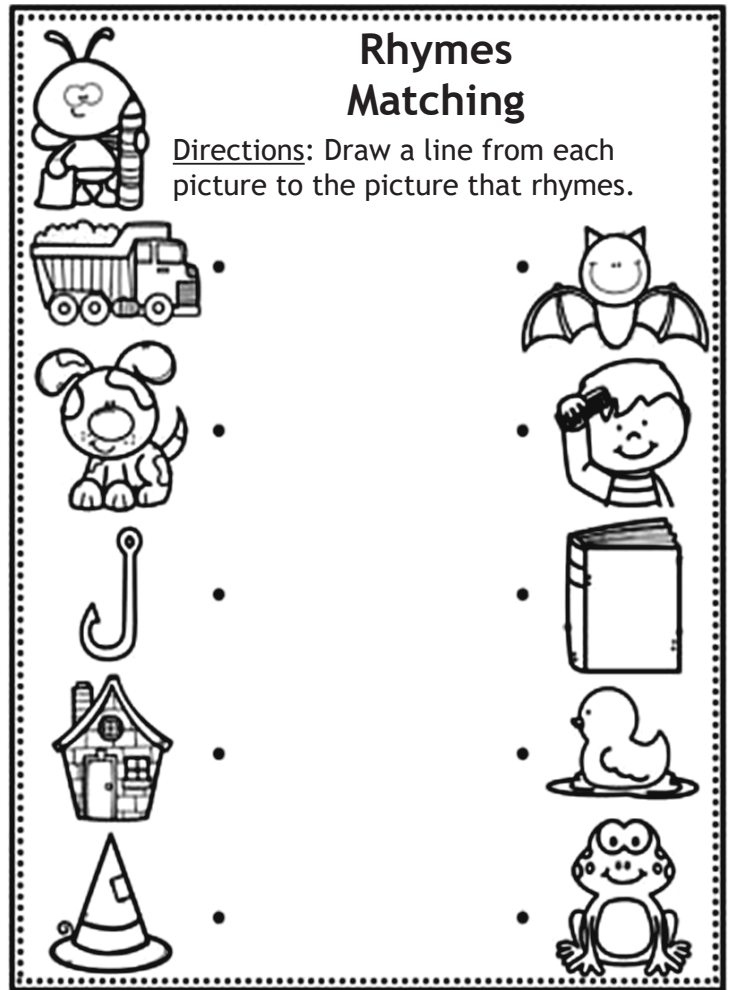
Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is open through March 15.

Apply online at [apps.muscogee.k12.ga.us/prek](https://apps.muscogee.k12.ga.us/prek).

Applications will be placed into a lottery. The District will notify parents if their application has been accepted or if they have been placed on a wait list.

After March 15, call (706) 748-2118 to see if slots are available.

For information on the registration process in the Phenix City School District, please call (334) 298-1418 or (334) 291-2017.



Ferst Readers  
P.O. Box 1327  
Madison, GA 30650

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