

# Talking Tips

Families **talk** now

## Rhymes are great for babies...

**Rhymes are good for babies because they help your baby learn words.**

- When you say their favourite rhyme over and over again, your baby can really start to learn about what you are saying.
- A quiet song or rhyme can help calm your baby, like "Rock-a-bye-baby".
- Babies love the sound of their parents' voices, if you make your voice go up and down when you say a rhyme, watch what your baby does. Do they look like they are listening to you?
- You can make up little songs and rhymes about the things you do and see. Your baby will love it!

## and for older children

**Children who are in school, or who are nearly ready for school, still learn from rhymes and join in with them.**

- Older children learn a lot about the world from rhymes. They can learn about concepts and counting, or new vocabulary such as animals and vehicles.
- Rhymes help children learn about the sounds of the words – an important beginning for thinking about reading and writing.
- Rhymes and songs help children learn about taking turns and being with other children.
- Older children still benefit from the special time you spend together joining in with songs and rhymes.

## and for toddlers

**Rhymes help toddlers too.**

- Rhymes can help toddlers learn words too. Try pausing in the rhyme and see if they can say the last word! For example "Twinkle twinkle little..... star".
- Toddlers begin to understand more about how actions for rhymes link with the words you are saying e.g. "The wheels on the bus go round and round".
- Rhymes can help young children learn to anticipate and guess what will happen next – especially rhymes with a jump or a tickle at the end! Wait and see how your child tells you they know what's going to happen.
- Say the rhymes slowly, so your toddler can hear each word as you say it. Repeat them as many times as they are happy to hear them.