

# Supporting Language & Literacy at 4 Years

## Build Language & Literacy Skills with Tongue Twisters

At 4 years old, your child is using more creative language and can probably share past events and simple stories.

Mastering the individual sounds in words is a critical skill for reading success. When you and your child have fun with tongue twisters, you're challenging their ability to produce the individual sounds in each word and forcing them to pay careful attention to the precise sounds in each word. Share your favorite tongue twisters to give your child a great literacy workout.

Here are some ones to you may remember:

- I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!
- Sheep should sleep in the shed.
- Which wristwatches are Swiss wristwatches?
- Lucky rabbits like to cause a ruckus.
- Five frantic frogs fled from fifty fierce fishes.
- Betty Botter bought some butter  
But she said the butter's bitter  
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter  
But a bit of better butter will make my batter better  
So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?  
He would chuck, he would, as much as he could, and chuck as much wood  
As a woodchuck would if a woodchuck could chuck wood
- I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish,  
but if you wish the wish the witch wishes,  
I won't wish the wish you wish to wish.

### **Language & pre-literacy skills to look for:**

- talks easily without repeating syllables or words
- uses a range of creative language, including both simple and complex sentences
- engages in short dialogues, such as recalling past events or simple stories
- asks 'when', 'why', and 'how' questions
- uses politeness terms or markers, like 'please' and 'thank you'

There are lots of great books to explore at this age. Here's a short list of some of our favorites:

- *BE QUIET!* by Ryan T. Higgins
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
- *The Book with No Pictures* by B. J. Novak
- *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
- *Y Is for Yet: A Growth Mindset Alphabet* by Shannon Anderson
- *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto