

Topics: Rhyming words, vocabulary development

Materials List

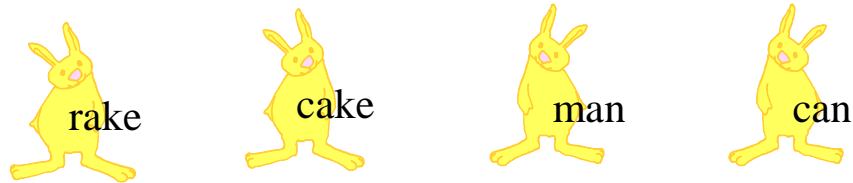
- ✓ 16 die cut rabbits (use EVA foam or laminated card stock) (Die cuts available at RAFT)
- ✓ Permanent Marker
- ✓ Optional: Poster board playing surface marked with a grid, laminated if desired.

This activity can be used to teach:

- Phonological Awareness, Phonics, & Word Recognition (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Foundational Skills, Grades K-1, 2 & 3; Grades 2-3, 3)
- Conversation (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Grades K-3, Speaking & Listening, 1, 6)

Rabbit Rhymes

A Concentration Game to Reinforce Rhyming Skills



Rabbits are a common spring theme in pre-school and primary classrooms. In this game, played like Concentration, students turn over rabbit cut outs to display rhyming word pairs (pictures or words).

Assembly

1. Hand or die-cut 16 rabbits.
2. Create a “matching pair” of rabbits by writing one of two rhyming words on the back of each rabbit. Pictures may be used for children who are unable to read.
3. Continue marking the remaining rabbit cut outs until there are 8 matching pairs.

Playing the Game (for 2-4 of players)

1. Place all the rabbits face down, in a 4x4 array, so the words or pictures are not displayed.
2. The first player will select two of the rabbits by turning them over. If the player turns over a matching pair, the player will collect the rabbits (removing them from play). This player will get another turn. If the player does not find a matching pair, his turn is over and the rabbits should be turned back over. All players should try to remember what written on the rabbits.
3. The next player will take a turn.
4. Play continues until players have matched and collected all the rabbits.
5. The winner is the student that has the most matching pairs. Optional: Rather than having a “winner”, simply discuss and compare the rabbits collected. How many did each student get? “Let’s count them together”.

The Content Behind the Activity

Students need opportunities to reinforce the language arts skills they are developing. Playing *Rabbit Rhymes* provides hands-on developmentally appropriate practice and review with rhyming words in a fun and enjoyable way. Brain research shows that when students are enjoying themselves, their brains are open and receptive to learning and that concepts are retained longer. This activity will allow students to practice and reinforce pre-reading and literacy skills while having fun. Concentration and memory skills will be enhanced.

Taking it Further

- To assist children in learning synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms, write a word on the back of 1 rabbit and a synonym, antonym, or homonym on another to create matching pairs.
- Expand the array to 6x6 or even 8x8 to allow for more pairs of words.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=345 for more resources!)