

APPENDIX D: REINFORCEMENT RHYMES AND SONGS

The following rhymes and songs, which are arranged in approximate order of difficulty and the order in which they are presented in Word Building B, can be used to reinforce long-vowel patterns and high-frequency words. Because some of the rhymes may contain unfamiliar words, go over the hard words with students, or use a shared reading procedure. In a shared reading procedure, you display the piece so that all can see it. You might make a transparency out of the blackline master or copy it on the board or chart paper. Briefly introduce the rhyme or song. Read the title and have students predict what the rhyme or song will tell. For a very simple rhyme or song, just give an overview of the piece. For instance, for “Rub-a-Dub-Dub,” you might simply say, “This is a very old rhyme that tells about three men floating in a tub.” Read the rhyme to students. Point to each word as you say it so they can match spellings and sounds. If the word is a pattern word or a high-frequency word that has been introduced, pause and invite students to read it. (After the initial reading of a more complex work, take some time to discuss students’ predictions and the meaning of the piece.) Read the piece again. This time students read it with you. Read it a third and, if necessary, a fourth time with them and then have volunteers read it. Duplicate the piece and provide students with copies. Students might read or sing the song with a partner until they can read or sing it flawlessly. They can take the piece home and read or sing it to family members.

As a follow-up, cut the shorter rhymes into lines and have students reassemble them. This provides additional practice with the words and fosters comprehension. Also cut up individual lines and have students reassemble the words. This provides practice with reading individual words and also fosters comprehension. Because students might have memorized the rhymes and aren’t really reading individual words, present individual words on large cards and have students read them. Lines and words could be placed on large strips or cards so that they could be read by a whole group. Words and lines might be placed in pocket charts. Assembling words into lines and lines into stanzas as well as practicing reading the rhymes with a partner make good learning center activities.

The skills that these rhymes and songs can be used to reinforce are noted at the bottom of each piece. Most of the rhymes encompass a variety of skills, so feel free to use them in any way that is of most benefit to your students. The songs and rhymes are traditional and are out of copyright, so you can feel free to make and distribute copies. A number of the songs can be found on the National Institutes of Education and Health (NIEH) Web site, NIEHS Sing-Along Songs’ Index! at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/musicm.hym>. Songs that have been set to music on that site are marked with an asterisk. A number of the rhymes are read aloud or set to music at Nicky’s Nursery Rhymes at www.nurseryrhymes4u.com. Both sites contain a wide variety of rhymes and songs that might be used to reinforce patterns and high-frequency words.

1 Rub-a-Dub-Dub

Rub-a-dub-dub,
Three men in a tub,
The butcher, the baker,
And the candlestick maker.

-ake, -er

2 As I Was Walking Down the Lake

As I was walking down the lake,
I met a little rattlesnake.
I gave him so much jelly-cake,
It made his little belly ache.

-ade, -ake, -ave, ache

3

Bingo*

There was a farm-er who had a dog.

And Bing-o was his name-o.

B - I - N - G - O, B - I - N - G - O,

B - I - N - G - O,

And Bing-o was his name-o.

-ame, -er

4

If You Ever Meet a Whale

If you ever ever ever ever ever,

If you ever ever ever ever ever meet a whale,

You must never never never never never,

You must never never never never never

touch its tail. For if you ever ever ever

ever ever ever,

For if you ever ever ever ever ever ever

touch its tail,

You will never never never never never,

You will never never never never meet

another whale.

-ail, -ale

5

Rain

Rain on the green grass,
And rain on the tree,
Rain on the house-top,
But not on me.

-ain

6

Bees

If bees stay at home,
Rain will soon come.
If they fly away,
Fine will be the day

-ain, -ay

7

Hiccup

Hiccup, hiccup,
Go away!
Come again another day;
Hiccup, hiccup,
When I bake,
I'll give you a butter cake.

-ay, -ake

8 Higher Than a House

Higher than a house,
Higher than a tree,
Oh! Whatever can that be?

-igh

9 Red Sky at Night

Red sky at night,
Sailor's delight;
Red sky in the morning,
Sailor's warning.

-ight

10 One, Two, Three, Four, Five

One, two, three, four, five
Once I caught a fish alive,
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.
Which finger did it bite?
The little finger on the right.

-ive, -ite, -ight

11

If Wishes Were Horses

If wishes were horses,
Beggars would ride.
If turnips were watches,
I'd wear one by my side.

-ide, -y

12

Elsie Marley

Elsie Marley is grown so fine,
She won't get up
To feed the swine,
But lays in bed
Till eight or nine.
Lazy Elsie Marley!

-ine

13

Sugar and Spice

What are little boys made of?

Frogs and snails,

And puppy dogs' tails.

That's what little boys are made of.

What are little girls made of?

Sugar and spice,

And all things nice.

That's what little girls are made of.

-ice

14

Three Blind Mice*

Three blind mice, see how they run.

They all ran after the farmer's wife,

Who cut off their tails with the carving knife.

Did you ever see such a sight in your life,

As three blind mice?

-ice, -ife

15

Apple Pie

An apple pie,
When it looks nice,
Would make one long
To have a slice;
But if the taste
Should prove so, too,
I fear one slice
Would scarcely do.
So, to prevent
My asking twice,
Pray, Mamma,
Cut a large slice!

-ie, -ice

16 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

-igh, -y

17 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat

by Lewis Carroll

Twinkle, twinkle, little bat,
How I wonder what you're at!
Up above the world you fly,
Like a tea-tray in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle---

-y

18 I Asked My Mother for Fifteen Cents

I asked my mother for fifteen cents
To see the elephant jump the fence.
He jumped so high that he touched the sky,
And never came back 'till the Fourth of July.

-igh, -y

19

Little Tommy Tucker

Little Tommy Tucker

Sings for his supper.

What shall we give him?

White bread and butter.

How shall he cut it

Without a knife?

How will he be married

Without a wife?

-ife, -ite

20

The Farmer in the Dell*

The farmer in the dell
Hi-ho, The derry-o
The farmer in the dell

The farmer takes a wife
The farmer takes a wife
Hi-ho, the derry-o
The farmer takes a wife

The wife takes a child
The wife takes a child
Hi-ho, The derry-o
The wife takes a child

The child takes a nurse
The child takes a nurse
Hi-ho, the derry-o
The child takes a nurse

-ife, -ild

21

Polly Put the Kettle On*

Polly, put the kettle on,
Polly, put the kettle on,
Polly, put the kettle on,
We'll all have tea.

Suki, take it off again,
Suki, take it off again,
Suki, take it off again,
We'll all have none.

Polly, put it back again,
Polly, put it back again,
Polly, put it back again,
We'll all have tea.

-ea

There's a Hole in the Middle of the Sea*

There's a hole in the middle of the sea,
There's a hole in the middle of the sea,
There's a hole, there's a hole,
There's a hole in the middle of the sea.

There's a log in the hole in the middle of the sea,
There's a log in the hole in the middle of the sea,
There's a log, there's a log,
There's a log in the hole in the middle of the sea.

There's a bump on the log in the hole
In the middle of the sea,
There's a bump on the log in the hole
In the middle of the sea,
There's a bump, there's a bump,
There's a bump on the log in the hole
In the middle of the sea.

There's a frog on the bump on the log
In the hole in the middle of the sea,
There's a frog on the bump on the log
In the hole in the middle of the sea,
There's a frog, there's a frog,
There's a frog on the bump on the log
In the hole in the middle of the sea.

23

Jack Sprat

Jack Sprat could eat no fat,
His wife could eat no lean.
And between them both, you see,
They licked the platter clean.

-ean, -een, -ee

24

Ice Cream

I scream, you scream,
We all scream for ice cream.

-eam

25

Little Hot Dog

My father owns the butcher shop,
My mother cuts the meat,
And I'm the little hot dog,
That runs around the street.

-eat, -eet

26

Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son

Tom, Tom, the piper's son,
Stole a pig
And away did run.
The pig he did eat
And Tom was beat
Till he ran crying
Down the street.

-eat, -eet

27

Days in The Months

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November.
All the rest have thirty-one,
Except February alone,
Which has twenty-eight days each year,
And twenty-nine in each leap year.

-eap, -each, -ear

28

Rain

Robert Louis Stevenson

The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea.

-ie, -ee, -ea

m

29

They That Wash

They that wash on Monday
Have all week to dry;
They that wash on Tuesday
Are not much awry;
They that wash on Wednesday
Are not much to blame;
They that wash on Thursday
Wash for shame;
They that wash on Friday
Wash in need;
And they that wash on Saturday?
Dirty are they indeed.

-eek, -eed

30 My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*

My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
My Bonnie lies over the sea.
My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
Please bring back my Bonnie to me.
Bring back, bring back,
Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me, to me.
Bring back, bring back,
Oh, bring back my Bonnie to me.

-e, -ea

31 If All the World Were Paper

If all the world were paper,
And all the seas were ink,
If all the trees were bread and cheese,
What should there be to drink?

-ea, -eese

32 Sing Your Way Home*

Sing your way home
At the close of the day.
Sing your way home,
Drive the shadows away.
Smile every mile,
For wherever you roam,
It will brighten your road,
It will lighten your load,
If you sing your way home.

-ome, -ose, -oad, -oa

33

One For The Money

One for the money,
And two for the show,
Three to make ready,
And four to go.

-ow, -o

34

If You're Happy and You Know It*

If you're happy and you know it,
Clap your hands. (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it,
Clap your hands. (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it.
If you're happy and you know it,
Clap your hands. (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it,
Stomp your feet. (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it,
Stomp your feet. (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it,
Then your face will surely show it.
If you're happy and you know it,
Stomp your feet. (stomp stomp)

-ow (show)

35

Fooba Wooba John

Saw a flea kick a tree,
Fooba wooba, fooba wooba,
Saw a flea kick a tree,
Fooba wooba John.

Saw a flea kick a tree,
In the middle of the sea,
Fooba wooba, fooba wooba,
Fooba wooba John.

Saw a crow flying low,
Fooba wooba, fooba wooba,
Saw a crow flying low,
Fooba wooba John.

Saw a crow flying low,
Miles and miles beneath the snow,
Fooba wooba, fooba wooba,
Fooba wooba John.

-ow (crow)

36 If You Should Meet a Crocodile

If you should meet a crocodile,
Don't take a stick and poke him;
Ignore the welcome in his smile;
Be careful not to stroke him.
For as he sleeps upon the Nile,
He thinner gets and thinner;
Whenever you meet a crocodile,
He's ready for his dinner.

-oke

37 Jumping Joan

Here am I,
Little Jumping Joan;
When nobody's with me,
I'm all alone.

-oan, -one (alone), -o

38 Way Down South Where Bananas Grow

Way down South where bananas grow,
A grasshopper stepped on an elephant's toe.
The elephant said, with tears in his eyes,
"Pick on somebody your own size!"

-ow (grow), -oe

	5			Improvement
complete this activity on their group cooperative activity				
	39			Row, Row, Row Your Boat*
Letters, Mixed-Up Words, or choose. Work is				Row, row, row your boat
activity on their own or with teacher models the assignment				Gently down the stream,
				Merrily, merrily, merrily,
				Life is but a dream.
ties.				
which a new phonics emphasized as the words rors.	40		-ow (row), -oat	White Sheep by Christina Rossetti
essed briefly. Teacher the rhyme on their own. until they are able to read me and read to caregivers.				White sheep, white sheep, On a blue hill,
idents read at least books that reinforce read in much the eading Time, or they ots and vocabulary th students reading				When the wind stops You all stand still.
on their own or with a ner or by the teacher. re-sort words to				When the wind blows You walk away slow.
e.				White sheep, white sheep, Where do you go?
progress and ways in				
yme to read or reread, nent activity.			ow (slow), -o, bl-, sl-, st-	

41

Oh, Suzanna*

I come from Al-a-bam-a,
With my banjo on my knee.
I'm going to Louisiana (loo-ee-zee-AN-uh),
My true love for to see.

It rained all night,
The day I left,
The weather it was dry,
The sun so hot,
I froze to death.
Suzanna (soo-ZAN-uh), don't you cry.

Oh, Susanna,
Oh don't you cry for me.
For I come from Alabama,
With my banjo on my knee.

-oze, oh, -o

I've Been Working on the Railroad*

I've been work-ing on the rail-road,

All the live long day,

I've been work-ing on the rail-road,

Just to pass the time a-way.

Don't you hear the whistle blowing?

Rise up so early in the morn.

Don't you hear the cap-tain shout-ing,

"Di-nah, blow your horn."

Di-nah, won't you blow,

Di-nah, won't you blow,

Di-nah, won't you blow your horn?

Some-one's in the kitch-en with Dinah,

Some-one's in the kitch-en, I know,

Someone's in the kitch-en with Dinah,

Strum-ming on the old ban-jo, and sing-ing:

Fee - fi - fidd-lee-i-o, Fee - fi - fidd-lee-i-o,

Fee - fi - fidd-lee-i-o, Strum-ming on the old
banjo.

-oad, -ow (know), -o