

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 C*, can be used to reinforce *r*-vowel and other- 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 or show it with a document camera. 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 “Bedtime,” you might simply say, “This is a very old rhyme that tells children when to go to bed and when to get up.” 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

Bedtime

Down with the lambs
Up with the lark,
Run to bed children
Before it gets dark.

-ark

2

Dickery, Dickery, Dare

Dickery, dickery, dare,
The pig flew up in the air;
The man in brown
Soon brought him down,
Dickery, dickery, dare.

-air, -are (dare)

3 Little Jack Horner

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner,
Eating his Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb,
And pulled out a plum,
And said, "What a good boy am I!"

-or

4 The North Wind Doth Blow

The north wind does blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will poor Robin do then?
Poor thing!
He'll sit in a barn,
And keep himself warm,
And hide his head under his wing.
Poor thing!

-oor, -ar, -(w)arm

5

The Mocking Bird

Hush, little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's going to buy you a mocking bird.
If the mocking bird won't sing,
Papa's going to buy you a diamond ring.
If the diamond ring turns to brass,
Papa's going to buy you a looking-glass.
If the looking glass gets broke,
Papa's going to buy you a billy goat.
If that billy goat runs away,
Papa's going to buy you another today.

-ird, -(w)ord

6

**Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little
Dog Gone?**

Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone?

Oh where, oh where can he be?

With his ears cut short and his tail cut long.

-ear (-ort)

7

Fears and Tears

Tommy's tears and Mary's fears

Will make them old

Before their years.

-ear

8

Wishes

Said the first little chicken
With a queer little squirm,
“I wish I could find a fat little worm.”

Said the second little chicken
With an odd little shrug,
“I wish I could find a fat little slug.”

Said the third little chicken
With a sharp little squeal,
“I wish I could find
Some nice yellow meal.”

“Now see here,” said their mother
From the green garden patch.
“If you want any breakfast,
Just come here and SCRATCH!”

-eer, scr-

9

Go to Bed Late

Go to bed late,
Stay very small.
Go to bed early,
Grow very tall.

-all

10

See-Saw, Margery Daw

See-saw, Margery Daw,
Jack shall have a new master,
He shall have but a penny a day,
Because he won't work any faster.

-aw

11

The Caterpillar

Christina G. Rosetti

Brown and furry
Caterpillar in a hurry.
Take your walk
To the shady leaf or stalk.

May no toad spy you,
May the little birds pass by you;
Spin and die,
To live again a butterfly.

-alk

12

Betty Botter

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,
That would make my batter better.”
So she bought a bit of butter,
Better than her bitter butter,
And she put it in her batter,
And the batter was not bitter;
So ‘twas better Betty Botter
Bought a bit of better butter.

-ought

13

I'll Sing You a Song

I'll sing you a song,
Though not very long,
Yet I think it as pretty as any.

Put your hand in your purse,
You'll never be worse,
And give the poor singer a penny.

-ong

14

Shoo, Fly

Shoo, fly, don't bother me,
Shoo, fly, don't bother me,
Shoo, fly, don't bother me,
For I belong to somebody.

I feel, I feel,
I feel like a morning star,
I feel, I feel,
I feel like a morning star.

-oo

15

A Dillar, a Dollar

A dillar a dollar,
A ten o'clock scholar,
What makes you come so soon?
You used to come at ten o'clock,
But now you come at noon.

-oon

16

Hey Diddle, Diddle

Hey diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed
To see such a sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

-oon (-or)

17

The Balloon

“What is the news of the day,
My good Mr. Gray?
They say the balloon
Has gone up to the moon.”

-oon, ew

18 **Cut Thistles in May**

Cut thistles in May,
They'll grow in a day;
Cut them in June,
That is too soon;
Cut them in July,
Then they will die.

-oo. -une

19 **The Old Man of Peru**

There was an old man of Peru,
Who dreamt he was eating his shoe.
He woke in the night
In a terrible fright,
And found it was perfectly true.

-u, -ue, -oe

20

Said a Flea to a Fly

Said a flea to a fly in a flue

Said the flea “Oh what shall we do?”

Said the fly, “Let us flee!”

Said the flea, “Let us fly!”

So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

-ue, -ew, -o (do)

21

Kind Hearts Are the Gardens

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Kind hearts are the gardens,

Kind thoughts are the roots,

Kind words are the flowers,

Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden

And keep out the weeds,

Fill it with sunshine,

Kind words and kind deeds.

-uit

22

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was a white as snow;
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go.

It followed her to school one day,
That was against the rule;
It made the children laugh and play,
To see a lamb in school.

-ool, -ule

23

Who Ever Sausage Such a Thing?

One day a boy went walking
And went into a store.
He bought a pound of sausages
And laid them on the floor.

The boy began to whistle
A merry little tune.
And all the little sausages
Began to dance around the room.

-oom, -une

24

Old Woman, Old Woman

There was an old woman tossed in a basket,
Seventeen times as high as the moon;
But where she was going no one could tell,
For under her arm she carried a broom.
“Old woman, old woman, old woman, “ said I,
Where, oh where, oh where so high?”
“To sweep the cobwebs from the sky;
And I’ll be with you by and by.”

-oom

25

There Was a Crooked Man

There was a crooked man,
And he walked a crooked mile,
He found a crooked sixpence
Against a crooked stile;
He bought a crooked cat,
Which caught a crooked mouse.
And they all lived together
In a little crooked house.

-ook

26

A Man in the Wilderness

A Man in the wilderness
Asked this of me,
“How many strawberries
Grow in the sea?”
I answered him
As I thought good,”
As many red herrings
As swim in the wood.”

-ood

27

What Animals Say

Bow-wow, says the dog,
Mew, mew, says the cat,
Grunt, grunt, goes the hog,
And squeak goes the rat.
Tu-whoo, says the owl,
Caw, caw, says the crow,
Quack, quack, says the duck,
What cuckoos say you know.

-ow (wow)

28

Bow, Wow, Wow,

Bow, wow, wow,
Whose dog art thou?
Little Tom Tinker's dog,
Bow, wow, wow.

-ow

29

Wee Willie Winkie

Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town,
Upstairs and downstairs in his nightgown,
Rapping at the window,
crying through the lock,
Are the children all in bed,
for now it's eight o'clock?

-own (town)

30

Cobbler, Cobbler, Mend My Shoe

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe.
Get it done by half past two.
Half past two is much too late.
Get it done by half past eight.
Stitch it up, and stitch it down,
And I'll give you half a crown.

-own (down)

31

Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus

Go round and round,

Round and round.

The wheels on the bus

Go round and round,

All over town.

-ound

32

Owl

A wise old owl sat in an oak,
The more he heard the less he spoke.
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why aren't we all like that wise old bird?

-owl

33

A Sunshiny Shower

A sunshinny shower
Won't last half an hour.

-ow. -our

34

I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot,
Short and stout.
Here is my handle,
Here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up,
Hear me shout,
"Tip me over, and pour me out."

-out

35

The Boy in the Barn

A little boy went into a barn,
And lay down on some hay.
An owl came out, and flew about,
And the little boy ran away.

-owl, -out

36

Take Me out to the Ball Game

Take me out to the ball game,

Take me out with the crowd.

Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,

I don't care if I never get back,

Let me root, root, root for the home team,

If they don't win it's a shame.

For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,

At the old ball game.

-out, -owd. -outh

37

The Donkey

Christina Rossetti

Donkey, donkey, old and gray,
Open your mouth and gently bray;
Lift your ears and blow your horn,
To wake the world this sleepy morn.

-outh

38

Come on In

Come on in,

The water's fine.

I'll give you

Till I count nine.

If you're not

In by then,

Guess I'll have to

Count to ten.

-ount

Clap Hands

Let everyone clap hands with me. (Clap,Clap)

It's easy as easy can be. (Clap,Clap)

Let everyone join in the game. (Clap, Clap)

You'll find that it's always the same. (Clap, Clap)

Let everyone Ho, Ho, with me. (Ho! Ho!)

It's easy as easy can be. (Ho! Ho!)

Let everyone join in the game. (Ho! Ho!)

You'll find that it's always the same. (Ho! Ho!)

Clap, hands, clap and be merry,

Clap, hands, dance round the floor.

Clap, hands, clap and be merry,

Sing till you can't any more.

Sing till you can't anymore.

Let everyone He, Ha, with me. (He! Ha!)

It's easy as easy can be. (He!, Ha!)

Let everyone join in the game. (He!, Ha!)

You'll find that it's always the same. (He!, Ha!)

Clap, hands, clap and be merry,

Clap, hands, dance round the floor.

Clap, hands, clap and be merry,

Sing till you can't any more.

Sing till you can't anymore.

Let everyone Meow with me. (Meow!)
It's easy as easy can be. (Meow!)
Let everyone join in the game. (Meow!)
You'll find that it's always the same. (Meow!)
Clap, hands, clap and be merry,
Clap, hands, dance round the floor,
Clap, hands, clap and be merry,
Sing till you can't any more.
Sing till you can't anymore.

-oin

40

Hot Boiled Beans

Boys and girls come to supper—
Hot boiled beans
And very good butter.

-oil

41

Birds of a Feather

Birds of a feather flock together
And so do pigs and swine;
Rats and mice will have their choice,
And so will I have mine.

-oice