

Silly Names

4+

Materials none

What to do

1. Four- and five-year-olds love to make up rhymes—the sillier the better!
2. To get the children's attention, call each child using a rhyme from her name. "This person's name sounds like Bathy. Who is it?" "Kathy!" This gets all the children thinking, and also helps with phonemic awareness.

★ Tracie O'Hara, Charlotte, NC

Tool Rap

4+

Materials poster board
scissors
markers

What to do

1. This song is a great way to capture children's attention.
2. Cut poster board into 8" x 11" rectangles.
3. Draw a simple picture of a tool on each card: a hammer, paintbrush, ruler, and pliers. Print the name of the tool under picture.
4. The following is an echo song. Hold up the card for each verse, chant the lines, and then the children repeat the lines.

Tool Rap

Hammers up, hammers down, (hand actions move up and down)

Tap-tap-tap! Tap-tap-tap! (hand actions taps)

Paintbrush smooth, paintbrush rough, (hand actions smooth and rough)

Slap-slap-slap! Slap-slap-slap! (hand actions do painting movement)

Rulers long, rulers short, (hand actions show long and short)

Inch-inch-inch! Inch-inch-inch! (hand actions show inch length)

(continued on the next page)

Attention Grabbers

Pliers pinch, pliers pull, (hand actions show pinching and pulling)
Twist-twist-twist! Twist-twist-twist! (children twist their whole bodies)

5. Think of other tools to use for the rap, such as wrenches, screwdrivers, or levels.
6. Show the children how real tools work.

★ *Jane Cline Rubicini, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada*

Copy Me!

4+

Materials none

- What to do**
1. This activity enhances auditory skills. Tell the children that occasionally, if you need to get their attention, you will clap a pattern and they should echo the pattern by clapping the same rhythm.
 2. Practice this, and when you need to get the children's attention, start clapping a pattern and watch how they happily respond.

★ *Jodi Sykes, Lake Worth, FL*

Making a List, Checking It Twice

4+

Materials chalkboard, white board, or chart paper
chalk or markers

- What to do**
1. To get children's attention as they join the group from other activities, use a chalkboard to write the names of the first children to come to the area. Do not read the names out loud as you write. They will eagerly watch for their own names to appear.
 2. If time permits, write the names of all the children and ask them to read the names aloud with you.

★ *Susan Oldham Hill, Lakeland, FL*