



## GET A JUMP START ON READING

**'Rhyming to Reading' program uses sight, hearing and touch to increase learning**

The Hearing and Speech Department at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics is offering a research-based pre-reading program called Rhyming to Reading.

The program teaches children, at least four years old, early reading skills such as rhyming, sentence awareness, the sounds letters make and how to sound out words. Children are taught through the use of their senses of sight, hearing and touch to increase learning.

Rhyming to Reading is play-based and involves movement to makes it fun to learn how to read. Parents have the opportunity to watch the classes and learn how to do pre-reading activities at home.

Small-group classes meet for one hour once a week for 7-9 weeks. Rhyming to Reading is for children who are at least 4 years old, but not yet in first grade. The program consists of two levels; children are pre-tested to determine the appropriate level.

Classes are Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays at the Children's Mercy Hearing and Speech College Boulevard Clinic in Overland Park. Classes are also offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays at Children's Mercy North in Kansas City, North, near Metro North Mall.

Classes begin the week of Feb. 6. Space is limited. There is a fee, but significant discounts and grants may be available. For details, contact Michaela Fulk at 913-696-5769 or [mefulk@cmh.edu](mailto:mefulk@cmh.edu).

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**For more information, contact Community Relations, Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, 2401 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Mo., 64108; 816-346-1370; [webmaster@cmh.edu](mailto:webmaster@cmh.edu)**

