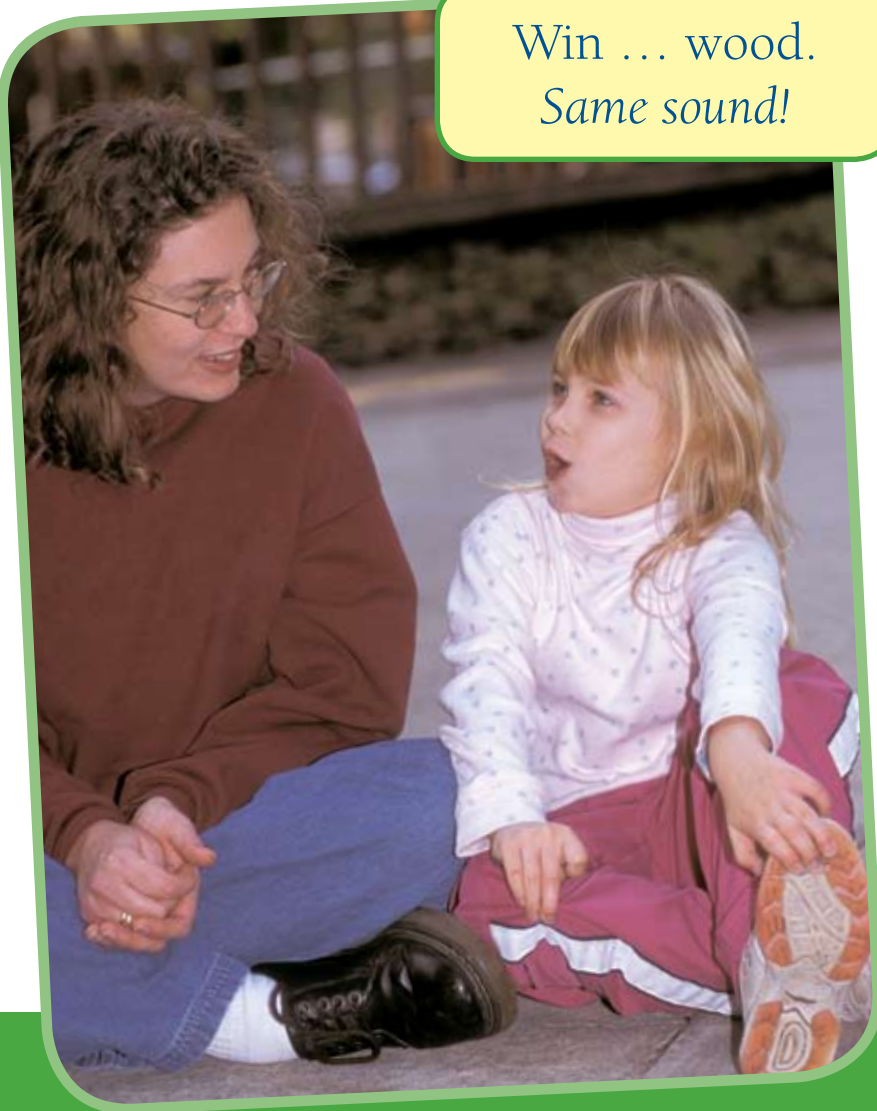


Same Sounds

Win ... wood.
Same sound!



Say some pairs of words and let your child tell you if their beginning sounds are the same (as in *mouse* and *mat*) or different (as in *tall* and *pan*).

Through repeated playing, your child may begin to pay more attention to the important sounds that come at the beginnings of words.



Why this is important

By playing this game your child will practice focusing on the beginning sounds in words and she may begin using the words *same* and *different* in describing sounds and words. Hearing the beginning sounds of words is an important step in understanding that a word is made up of a series of sounds. The skill of hearing the individual sounds in words will be used later by your child in spelling and reading.

What you do

- Invite your child to join you in a word game. Say, *Listen to these words. Do they sound the same at the beginning? Or do they sound different? Mouse, mat.*
- Repeat the words if your child seems unsure. Exaggerate the beginning sound: *Listen again. Mmmouse, mmmat.*
- Comment positively on your child's successes. *Yes, they are the same beginning sound!*
- Practice with one sound (such as *m*) until you feel your child fully understands the game.
- Add more words to the groupings as you play.

Another idea

Play this game throughout the day such as while riding in the car, taking a walk through the neighborhood, or while waiting in line at the grocery store.

Let's read together!

Polar Bear Night
by Lauren Thompson