

## PreKorner™ Early Literacy Resources - Child Literature Activity Series

### Child Language Development Through Poem and Rhyme

**B**eing able to recognize and make up rhyming words is essential to child literacy and child language development. *Slim and Miss Prim*<sup>†</sup> is a witty example of a child poem, very useful in helping your child with rhyming words.



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#### **Building Familiarity and Awareness of Text Structure:**

Read the story through slowly, taking time to explain unfamiliar words and phrases. Study the pictures carefully and point out details to him, especially facial expressions on the people and animals in the story. Point out the rhythm of the story, and call attention to some of the rhyming words and phrases.

#### **Discussing:**

Talk about the story as you read it. Ask, “Why do you think Slim said that Marigold’s talking wasn’t bad? Why do you think he sang love songs as he rode? Do you think Slim’s singing voice was very good? Why (or why not)?”

#### **Rhyming:**

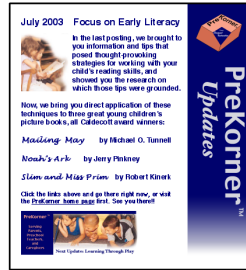
After reading the story together a few times, she will be able to fill in a rhyming word when you leave it out, as in “With prairie dogs barking and hawks high *above*, Slim played his guitar and sang songs of \_\_\_\_ (*love*).” Say, “Which of these words on this page do not rhyme with the others – *day, stay, May, or free*?” Think of other words that rhyme with *Slim* and *Prim* – such as *Jim, trim, and swim*. Say, “Let’s have a snack that rhymes with *please*. Can you tell me what it is? (*cheese*).”

#### **Following Up:**

Make up rhyming puzzles for your meal. “For dinner we will have the rhymes of *leaf, slice, sees, and parrots*. What are we having? (*Beef, rice, peas, and carrots*).” Your child will begin to incorporate the elements of the story into his play, and encourage him to do so.

Check out the other early literacy entries in the [Child Literature Activity Series](#)

Go to the [Early Literacy overview page](#)

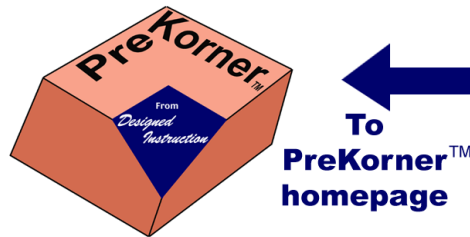


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† *Slim and Miss Prim* is authored by Robert Kinerk, and illustrated by Jim Harris (Rising Moon/South Sea International Press). Winner of the 1999 Spur Award -- Story Teller Award!