

SUMMARY

Using rhymes in language training is skillful use of language elements to promote, maintain and restore mental, physical and emotional health. Rhymes have verbal, creative, structural and emotional qualities. These are used in therapeutic relationship to facilitate contact, interaction, self-awareness, learning, self-expression, communication and personal development. Rhymes are a successful medium because they are very attractive to young children in different ways.

Rhymes carry all the parts of language that lead to speaking and reading. As children hear the vowels and consonants in rhyme, they begin to imitate the sounds. All the parts of speech are practiced in the rhyme, and the rhythmic and melodic flow of language is intensified. The rhymes expand vocabulary content of the children. The rhymes open the children's minds to new ideas. The more rhymes they know, the more ideas they have to think about. Rhymes increase children's ability to memorize, to sequence, and to hear, speak, move to, and feel patterns resulting in increasing children's attention and cognitive functions.

The rhymes should be simple and rhythmic. They also should have lots of repetition of words and melody. They must contain common semantic names and the syntax used in our daily live.

Rhymes are considered as a vehicle and background in different communication disorders as Delayed Language Development, Dysphasia, Stuttering, and Apraxia.

This study included 40 children with delayed language development and below average mentality. Their age ranged from 3 to 6 years. All children received language training using Arabic Rhymes Training (ART) booklet that was developed and applied in Phoniatics unit at Beni-suef University hospital.

The training program lasted for 12 weeks, 3sessions/week, 40 minutes/session, every other day session. i.e: 36 sessions, group therapy, 4 children in each group.

The Arabic Rhymes Training booklet can be incorporated into the language intervention program to improve both receptive and expressive aspects of the language and to help the children to increase their vocabularies in attentive and easy manner.

This study revealed improvement in both receptive and expressive aspects of language with subsequent improvement in the vocabulary size. There is a highly significant positive correlation between age, IQ and sentence size and the beneficial gain of the training program.