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The Cat in the Hat, I Can Do that! Seuss Poetry Contest

In honor of Dr. Seuss, Childsplay and First Things First invite you to create a poem together as a family. Up to 52 families will be chosen to have their poems read onstage at a performance of *The Cat in the Hat*. Each winning family will receive two free tickets to the performance (or a future Childsplay production if you're smart like the Cat and already booked your seats). One grand prize winner will also receive a \$100 gift card to Changing Hands bookstore.

Step one: Read your favorite Dr. Seuss (or other rhyming book) together. Be sure to stop at the rhymes, clap them out, and think of other words that might also rhyme.

Step two: Using the attached word sheets, pick two or three words to use in your poem. With your child, think of as many words that rhyme with your chosen words as possible (you can also make up nonsense words that rhyme!):

_____ rhymes with _____, _____, _____, _____

_____ rhymes with _____, _____, _____, _____

_____ rhymes with _____, _____, _____, _____

Step three: Using your chosen words, work with your child to create the story for your poem. Pick a subject...it could be a person or an animal. Imagine what is unusual about your subject...a particular habit or job or thing they like to do...the sillier, the better! Think about a problem that your subject encounters and a way they might solve that problem. For example, you could write a poem about a fox named Fred who hates the cold and won't get out of bed because he lost his socks!

Step four: Turn your story into a rhyming poem. You can create up to three stanzas (each stanza is like a paragraph with four lines, at least two of which rhyme). Dr. Seuss uses an ABCB structure for his stanzas:

I know it is wet (A)

And the sun is not sunny (B)

But we can have (C)

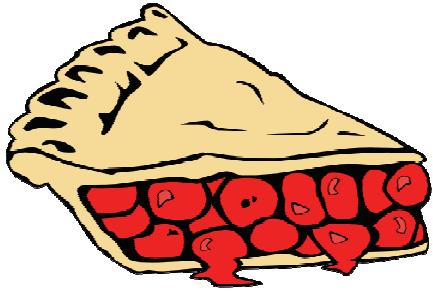
Lots of good fun that is funny (B)

You may use whatever rhyme scheme you choose...so long as your poem rhymes!

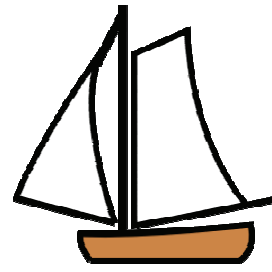
Step five (optional): Ask your child to draw a picture about the poem.

Step six: Submit your family poem using our online form at www.childsplayaz.org or by mailing the attached entry form to Seuss Poetry Contest, 900 S. Mitchell Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281. **Entries must be received by January 15, 2014.** One entry per family, please.

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Pie



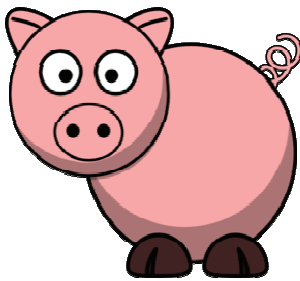
Boat



Fox



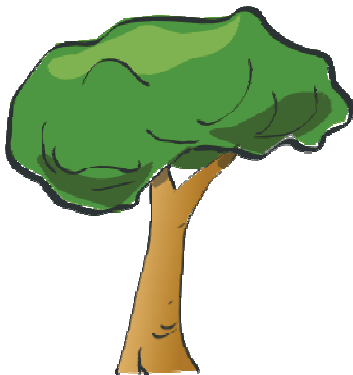
Band



Pig



Frog



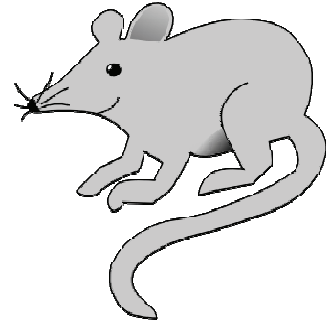
Tree



Rain



Rake



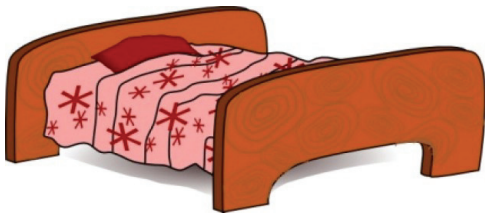
Rat



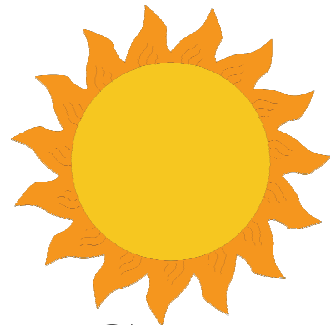
Socks



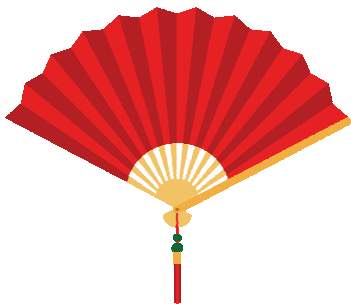
Sing



Bed



Sun



Fan



House



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Seuss Poetry Contest

Official Entry Form

Name of Poem

_____	A
_____	B
_____	C
_____	B
_____	A
_____	B
_____	C
_____	B
_____	A
_____	B
_____	C
_____	B

_____ Contact name

_____ Contact e-mail address

_____ Phone Number

We currently have tickets to *The Cat in the Hat* : Y/N
If yes, our tickets are for the following date: _____



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Name of Poem

Draw us a picture about your poem (optional):