



If I Built a House

Written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

Small-Group Activities

Skill Focus

- Rhyming Words

Materials

- one copy of *If I Built a House* per family
- large, unlined index cards
- paper
- pencils

It's Time to Rhyme!

1. As a family, thumb through your book to find a favorite scene.
2. Read the words together with your family. Write each rhyming word pair from the page on a separate card. Then think of other words that rhyme with the words on your cards. Write those words on the cards, too.
3. With your family, choose two rhyming words from one of your cards. Write a house-related rhyme using those words.
4. Share your rhyme with the group. Then read aloud other words on the card from which the words for your rhyme were taken. Invite the other families to come up with their own rhymes using two of those words.
5. Take turns until each family has had a chance to share.

Families participate in Small-Group Activities connected to the read-aloud books. Activities are interactive, address varying learning styles, and help students develop key reading and writing skills.

Family Activity

After reading:

Talk with your child about the different kinds of rooms in Jack's house. Then ask your child to tell which is his or her favorite room.

- Why does he or she like that room?
- What makes it special?
- What unique features does it have?

Working together, write a description of the room. If desired, also include some things that you and your child might do in the room. Later, you and your child might draw a picture to go with your writing.

The **Family Tip Sheets** offer advice on how parents and caregivers can promote literacy at home. In addition to the Family Tip Sheets, each family goes home with 3 high-interest books, including the one read during the event. The materials include activities to use with their takehome books, grade-specific reading milestones for their child, and much more.



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Pacing Instructions

Each **Planning Guide** includes pacing instructions for your event planning needs. The event takes approximately 90 minutes to conduct. You can follow this schedule, but be as flexible as possible to allow time for participants to complete the activities and share their experiences.

Approx Time	Event Activities
5 minutes	Arrival and Greetings
15 minutes	Introductions and Icebreakers
20 minutes	Interactive Read-Aloud
10 minutes	Read-Aloud Follow-Up Discussion
5 minutes	Break Out Into Groups
10 minutes	1st Group Rotation Activity*
10 minutes	2nd Group Rotation Activity*
10 minutes	3rd Group Rotation Activity*
10 minutes	4th Group Rotation Activity*
15 minutes	Whole-Group Wrap-Up
5 minutes	Comments and Departure

*Optional group rotation activities.

Read-Aloud Tips

As you read, pause to ask questions and get responses. For example, when sharing the first few pages, ask:

- What did Jack do with the materials on the table?
- What does Jack think about the house he has planned?

As you share the rest of the story, ask:

- What does the Kitchen-o-Mat do? The Scrub-a-Dub-Dub?
- Why is the living room so fun?
- What makes the bedroom special?
- Why did the boy include the Art Room in his house?
- In which room can Jack fly? What makes this possible?

During the read-aloud, make comments about the story in a think-out-loud manner. For example, say (completing the thoughts in your own way):

- I can tell Jack is really creative because...
- Being in a room without gravity must feel...
- I think the phrase “literally speaking, this room is a blast” means...
- I wonder what Jack’s mother must be thinking about his house.

All **Activity Cards** feature prompts you can use with the read-aloud books and suggestions for holding follow-up discussions. They also include four interactive activities for participants to do in small groups on a rotating basis.