Episode: “French Toast Frank”
Albie learns that free french toast is available in the elevator. She loses her spot in line when she runs off to get a fork and has to practice patience when she is one of the last to grab a slice. While waiting, Albie meets a cymbalist in an orchestra who offers some tricks to help pass the time while waiting her turn.

Activity

Materials:
• Just you and a friend!

Steps:
1. Watch the episode “French Toast Frank,” and notice how it’s tough for Albie to wait in line. What does Albie learn from the orchestra at Play On Philly? How does she decide to pass the time while waiting for her french toast?
2. Albie sings her own waiting song, looking at things around her and rhyming different words. Sing along with Albie:

   **Albie’s Waiting Song**

   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   I like that it’s golden brown, golden brown, golden brown.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.

   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.

   Zia likes the soggy bits, soggy bits, soggy bits!
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.

   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
   Tibitiz thinks it smells divine, smells divine, smells divine.
   French toast, french toast, the breakfast food I like the most.
3. In her song, Albie rhymes “toast” with “most” and sings it over and over again in a pattern. She also adds new lines to her song when she hears what other people like about french toast.

4. You try! Look around the room you're in right now, and come up with a simple and silly rhyming song about what you see. Try to rhyme the last words of each line, even if those rhymes are nonsense words or make no sense! “I’m sitting at a table table, it’s a silly shmable shmable!”

5. Grown-ups and kids can take turns coming up with and singing different rhymes. Ask each other a question, and use the answer as another line in your song, like Albie did with Zia and Tibitz. “Mommy likes to sing with me, sing with me, sing with me!”

6. Practice this rhyming skill over and over to use the next time you need to be patient and want to come up with your own waiting song.

**Tips**

- Rhyming, even if it’s just matching sounds, is great pre-reading practice. Encourage rhyming of all kinds, from real worlds to nonsense words, as an early literacy skill to help children get acquainted with the patterns and rhythm of words.
- You can use Albie’s song as your waiting song too. Substitute different words, or just sing about french toast whenever you need to keep yourself entertained.
- Encourage your child to use their waiting songs any time they need to be patient—maybe while baking cookies, waiting for a grown-up to be done with a phone call or on a short car ride.

**In this activity, your child:**

- Learned the words to Albie’s Waiting Song and identified rhymes and word patterns
- Created their own rhymes
- Collaborated in creating rhythmic words and phrases
Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

- Why do you think waiting can be hard?
- When was the last time you were told to be patient and wait? What did you do and how did you feel?
- Can you think of some times when you can use the waiting song?

Keep Going!

Nursery Rhymes
Introduce some classic nursery rhymes to encourage experimentation with words and sounds. “One, two, buckle my shoe” is a great one for getting shoes on before leaving your home. Don’t forget “three, four, shut the door” on your way out!

More Waiting Games
Come up with a list of waiting games with your child. I Spy and 20 Questions are great games for passing the time together.

Watch “Posie Patience”
There’s another Albie’s Elevator episode about waiting. Watch how Albie passes the time while waiting for her flower to grow in “Posie Patience.”

Vocabulary

**Rhyme:** Words that end in the same sound

**Pattern:** Phrases or things that repeat over and over in a certain order

**Patience:** Waiting calmly
More At-Home Activities
Visit PBS Learning Media for more activities like this inspired by *Albie’s Elevator*.

**Children’s Books with Related Themes**
Check out these children's books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

*Llama Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney
Little llama is having trouble falling asleep. You can identify lots of great rhymes in this book about a little llama who needs to be patient while waiting for his mama.

*If You Want to See a Whale* by Julie Fogliano
A young boy patiently waits to spot a whale and uses his imagination and curiosity to occupy his mind during the long wait.