



From Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Before Reading

Look at the cover and read the title of the story out loud. Point out that the gorilla is touching his head and pointing to its toe. Ask your child, “Where is your head? Where is your toe?” Say, “When we read this story, we’re going to see a lot of animals doing movements. We’re going to do them too!”

During Reading

- As you read, explain each action word and act out the movements with your child.
- Say the repeating lines together: “Can you do it? I can do it!”
- Point out the beautiful illustrations on each page and ask interactive questions. For example, while pointing your finger to the animal, say “What color(s) do you see on the **giraffe**? I see yellow and brown!”
- While reading the story, continue to ask to your child to name the animals that are in the pictures.

After Reading

- Ask your child to tell you about his/her favorite animal and action and act it out together.
- Name and point to the parts of your body with your child.

Activities

- Sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” together to reinforce parts of the body.
- Visit your local library to take out books on your child’s favorite animal from the story.
- If you live near an animal farm or petting zoo, take your child and have fun getting to know the animals. What movements do you see them doing? Are they similar or different to the actions in the book?
- Have your child draw a picture of their favorite animal. Ask your child what he/she likes most about them. Ask your child, “What colors do you see here?”

New Vocabulary

Explain these words to your child as you read and discuss the book:

penguin, turn, bend, giraffe, raise, shoulders, wave, clap, seal, thump, chest, arch, wriggle, hips, kick, donkey, stomp, wiggle

Children remember words connected to actions, so play together and act out turning, bending, thumping, wriggling, and stomping. Name each action as you do it, and have your children repeat the name.