

From Head to Toe

By Eric Carle



Before Reading: Get Ready

Tell your child what you see on the cover of the book. Then, ask your child what they see on the cover. Read the book's title, author, and illustrator to your child.

Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading. Today, we are going to read about animals who move in different ways! When we read, let's see if we can move like the animals do! At the end of the book, a person is going to do the moving, so let's read to see what happens and get ready to move! Are you ready to help me read? (Note: Encourage your child to "pretend read" the book with you! "Pretend reading" is the first stage of reading and builds your child's language development and early reading skills!).

During Reading: Read Together

Sit side-by-side to share the book, or have your child sit on your lap while you read to them. Read the book in an excited voice and encourage your child to "read" with you. Touch under each word as you read aloud to help your child match spoken words with print. If your child comments on a page or asks questions about the book, please pause and briefly discuss before returning to reading to help your child engage in the reading.

Before reading, move to a place where you and your child have space to move.

- **Begin reading.** For each action, "act out" the movement described.
- **On the last page of the book,** explain that the parrot is moving his toes just like the person!
- **After you finish reading the book,** you may want to review all of the animal names from the book.

After Reading: Discuss and Extend

Ask your child whether they liked the book. Ask your child whether they want you to read the book with them again! Encourage your child to “read” the book with you when you read it again.

After reading the book, you and your child could:

- Go to the library to find other books by Eric Carle!
- Act out the book again, or come up with other motions you can do that animals can also do.
- Using the phrase *I can*, have your child tell you all of the things they can do! Write them down. Then you and your child can read together all of the things your child can do.
 - I can _____.
 - I can _____.
 - I can _____.
 - I can _____.

NOTE: Videos for parents can be accessed on the LEAP website: <https://leap.cehd.gmu.edu/parent-and-family-resources/>