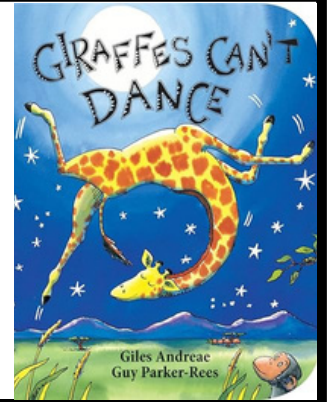


# Giraffes Can't Dance

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## 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 a book about a giraffe named Gerald who thinks he can't dance. The other animals don't think he can dance, either. But then, something happens! Let's read to see!

**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.

- **On the page that begins, "Hey, look at clumsy Gerald,"** ask your child, "Should the animals be saying those mean things to Gerald and making fun of him?"
- **On the last page of the book,** ask your child, "What happened? How did Gerald learn how to dance?"

# 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:

- Have a dance party with your child!
- Ask your child to tell you all of the things they can do. Write down what your child says. Start each sentence with, I can \_\_\_\_\_. Then, read these sentences together with your child.
- Go back through the book with your child. Remind your child what rhyming words are (words that sound the same at the end). Reread a few pages of the book and see if your child can tell you what the rhyming words are.
- Have your child draw a picture of the “jungle dance” from the book. Have your child tell you what is happening in the picture. Write down what your child says and then read these sentences together.
- Talk with your child about how the other animals hurt Gerald’s feelings. Talk with your child about kind words that the animals could have said instead so that Gerald would not feel sad.

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