

This book features the movements of playful animals, and children who move in ways that animals might. It displays simple, fun movements that children can try themselves.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

MOVE



Children will:

- ◆ Explore new body positions and movements
- ◆ Balance and control postures

Teachers will:

- ◆ Encourage children to imitate movement

TEACHING TIP

Every infant and toddler has a unique pace and rate of gross motor development, and all infants and toddlers need lots of time for practice! As children explore and test what they can do with their bodies, they build muscle strength and coordination, as well as build healthy lifestyle habits. Giving plenty of opportunities for children to extend their movements helps build the ability to move and accomplish simple goals with intention.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “All animals move differently. We can also move in different ways, and it is fun to try out new ways to move our bodies! This book is called *We All Play*, and we will try out some of the same ways to move and play as the children and animals in this book!”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause to encourage children to imitate the movements of the animals or children in the book.
- ◆ Narrate the different movements of the characters in the book and the children in your classroom.

Encourage Children to Imitate Movement

Read: “We play too!”

Narrate: “I see these three children are jumping, and these two are lying down.”

Encourage: “Can you jump? Can you hop with two feet? Can you lie down and put your hands in the air? *(For infants: Model and gently guide or encourage children to jump or move their bodies. Narrate their movements.)*”

Read: “Animals slip and slide”

Narrate: “These snakes are slithering along the grass. They are sliding on their bellies on the ground.”

Encourage: “How could you move your body as a snake? Can you show me what that might look like? *(For infants: narrate how their movements are similar to a snake)*”

Read: “Animals fall asleep”

Encourage: “The animals are sleeping. Can you show me what it looks like when you get ready to sleep? What do you do with your body when you sleep?”

Narrate: “I see (Child) curling their knees and arms under their body. I see (Child) stretching their arms and legs out. I see (Child) closing their eyes. You are sleeping like the animals.”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “You moved your bodies in so many different ways! We move to play, but we also move differently to get ready to rest. Our bodies can move in big and small ways, just like animals!”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Encourage children to try out new movements or skills through gentle support. For infants, you may try placing them in a new position, like a crawling stance, to encourage core strength, or encourage a toddler to push or pull things as they walk to increase the challenge and add variety to their movements.