

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Clap Your Hands

Written and illustrated by
Lorinda Bryan Cauley

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

Children and their animal friends dance, clap and have fun together in this silly story of playful movements told in verse and rhymes. Can you do all the things they do?

Genre: Poetry/verse

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Clap Your Hands* to introduce in your classroom:

stomp	dare
shake	secret
animal names	wiggle
body parts	somersault

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Physical Development
and Health
Item I
(Gross-motor skills)

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item M
(Listening and
comprehension)
Item N
(Phonological awareness)

Creative Arts
Item Z
(Movement)

Reading Tips

This book can be enjoyed in all group sizes. Read slowly enough to get at the movement names and to hear the rhymes at the end of each verse. Encourage the children to act out the story as you read. Imitate the characters in the story as they move. "Who can spin? Show us!" As the book asks to find items, take a moment and encourage the children to do this. "Find something red! Find something yellow!"

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

At **Group Time**, encourage the children to experiment with the movements in the story. Make room for somersault practice.

At **Outside Time**, practice roaring, growling, purring and barking.

Crawl, hop, flap, or jump during **Transitions**.

Read the book again at **Departure Time**. End the day with everyone waving and saying, "Bye-bye," just like the story ends.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add baby clothes in the **House Area** and encourage the children to dress the stuffed animals in the classroom.

Post pictures of big things and pictures of small things in the **Block Area**.

Create a circle on the carpet out of tape and call it the "Spin in a circle" spot.

Place *Clap Your Hands* in the **Book Area** so children can enjoy reading it over and over.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Clap Your Hands*:

How do you like to move?

Where should we fly?

Which animals would you like to move like?

How else could we move?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Clap Your Hands* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

We've been having fun reading *Clap Your Hands* and hope that you are also enjoying this playful rhyming story with your child. Act out the pages together and ask your child to "show you" how to do the movements. "Wiggle? How do you wiggle? Show me how to do that!" Have fun together as you try to rub your tummy and pat your head at the same time. Follow your child's lead as to what they like best or by reading their favorite page over and over. Acknowledge your child's interests by saying something like, "You really like this one—you like trying to do somersaults!"