

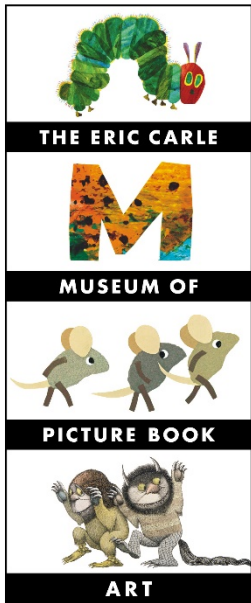
Imaginative Play

Play is about having fun! It's also the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. Play helps your child to:

- Move and control their bodies in ways that build strength, balance, and coordination
- Move small muscles in their hands and fingers – fine motor skills needed for reading and writing
- Speak in sentences, name objects, listen to others, and follow directions
- Experiment, ask questions, interpret their experiences, and problem solve
- Take turns, cooperate, and listen to others – social skills they need in order to navigate relationships in a classroom
- Enjoy books and want to learn to read for themselves

What you can do

- Join literacy educator David Feinstein for [these interactive storytimes featuring Eric Carle's *From Head to Toe* and *Little Cloud*](#). Encourage your child to move along as they watch!
- Books are baby's first toys. Keep board books where your child can easily reach and play with them.
- Share books that encourage movement - see the booklist included below!
- Share interactive books that encourage your child to touch the book and develop print awareness skills. See the booklist below!
- When sharing books, try acting out different parts of the story by doing what the characters do. Invite your child to move during – or after – reading the book.
- Play movement games that encourage your child to practice regulating their bodies. For example, play freeze dance, moving and stopping with the music!
- Add new words and descriptions when playing. Children learn new words best when they learn them in a fun and natural setting.
- When playing with your child, ask open-ended questions that invite them to imagine and tell their own stories.
- Follow your child's lead. If your child interrupts the book to talk or play, go with it. Length of time isn't important – enjoyment is!



Imaginative Play – Booklist

Have fun playing with these books, available through your local library.

Movement & Play – Try acting out the story!

All of Me: A Book of Thanks by Molly Bang
From Head to Toe by Eric Carle
Hooray for Birds! by Lucy Cousins
Run Wild!, by David Covell
Some Bugs by Angela DiTerlizzi and Brendan Wenzel
In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
My Friends by Taro Gomi
A Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
A Big Bed for Little Snow by Grace Lin
Hands Up! by Breanna J. McDaniel and illustrated by Shane W. Evans
Move! by Steven Jenkins and Robin Page
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury
I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison and Frank Morrison
My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss
What Can You Do with a Rebozo? By Carmen Tafolla and Amy Córdova
Can You Make a Scary Face? by Jan Thomas
You Are a Lion! And Other Fun Yoga Poses by Tae-eun Yoo

Tactile Books – Discover hidden surprises and tell the story by touching the book!

Fuzzy Fuzzy Fuzzy! by Sandra Boynton
Open Very Carefully, by Nick Bromley and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne
Hide-and-Sleep by Lizi Boyd
Hatch by Heather Brown
Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
Color Zoo by Lois Elhert
Where's Spot? by Eric Hill
Little Mice / Ratoncitos by Susie Jaramillo
Tickle Monster by Édouard Manceau
Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson
Touch the Brightest Star by Christie Matheson
Good Night Buenas Noches by Meritxell Martí and Xavier Salomó
Sam's Sandwich by David Pelham
Hungry Bunny by Claudia Rueda
There's a Cat in this Book by Viviane Schwartz
Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Taback
Polar Bear's Underwear, by Tupera Tupera
The Game of Finger Worms by Hervé Tullet
Press Here by Hervé Tullet
Lines that Wiggle by Candace Whitman and Steve Wilson