



Share a book everyday to create a reader for a lifetime!



**Title:** Giraffes Can't Dance

**Author:** Giles Andreae

**Illustrator:** Guy Parker-Rees

**Book Summary:** Gerald the Giraffe wants to dance in the annual Jungle Dance. When he steps out on the dance floor, everyone laughs at him. But the cricket teaches him that everyone has a special song.

**Before Reading**, use the following conversation starters to engage your child's interest in the book.

**To create interest in the book**, ask your child to look at the picture. Encourage your child to describe what the giraffe is doing.

**To develop book awareness**, talk with your child about what the words "title," "author" and "illustrator" mean. Ask your child if s/he would like to write the words or draw the pictures for a book. What would be the title of the book?

**During Reading**, use the following ideas to keep your child actively engaged in the book sharing.

**To make learning relevant**, encourage your child to dance like the animals. Try a Latin cha-cha and a Scottish reel. Encourage your child to create his/her own dance moves!

**To develop print awareness**, run your finger under the words as you read. Point out letters that are familiar to your child or are in his/her name.

**After Reading**, use the following activities to extend your book sharing experience.

**To promote physical activity**, encourage your child to participate in play every day— outside if possible. Establishing healthy habits early in life will continue with your child for life. Make activities fun— jump rope, go for a walk, imitate animal movements.

**To develop early literacy skills**, discuss the concept of rhyming words. Explain that the words have the same ending sounds like "sky" and "high" or "wide" and "cried." Singing songs is a fun way to learn about rhyming words.

**To stimulate creativity**, play different kinds of music. Spend time learning dances or creating your own. Set aside time for your child and family/friends to perform a Jungle Dance-just like Gerald.

Onslow County Partnership for Children



Together We Build Brighter Futures