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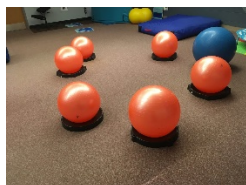
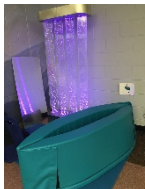
## January 2018

The books we have selected for January offer stories that children never grow tired of, an opportunity for creative movement, as well as an occasion for young children to explore art in a way that works well for small hands.

**1/5 From Head to Toe** by Eric Carl, is a story about a child who follows an animal's lead in moving from head to toe. Join us in the sensory room to enjoy the story and practice the same movements as the child and the animals in the story.

**1/12 Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?** by Eric Carl, is about a bear who sees some very interesting animals. As the bear moves from page to page to discover what he will see, we will move around the sensory room to see what we will see.

**1/19 Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you Hear?** by Eric Carl, is about a bear who hears animals making different noises on each page. The zookeeper hears children making a variety of sounds, and that's what we'll be doing as we pretend to be animals and explore the sensory room.



## What is a sensory room?

A sensory room is designed to calm your senses and adjust your energy level while you explore soft surfaces, enjoy soothing music, and take in the details of the calming environment. Some of the benefits of sensory rooms include mood improvement, fewer disruptive behaviors, improved focus and attention, mental and physical relaxation.

## Please join us!

The Claremont Early Childhood Program's sensory room has a bubble wall, padded floors, a mountain mural and so much more. You and your preschooler are invited to join the reading, stretching and creative movement fun in the Claremont Early Childhood Program's Sensory Classroom. It's free, fun, and on **Friday January 5, 12, & 19 from 10:00am-10:30am.**



## Celebrating the work of Eric Carl

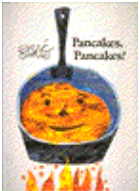
Children are typically able to crawl before they can walk, and make marks (scribbles) before they can draw pictures. Crawling and walking involve big muscles and mark making and drawing involve small muscles. Big muscles develop before small muscles and with that in mind, moving to a story is easier for young children than drawing pictures.

In January we are celebrating the work of Eric Carl because his stories are engaging, invite movement, and includes unique illustrations. His illustrations are created using a collage technique that make the pictures very interesting. Young children are good at ripping paper and if given a variety of colored and textured paper along with some child-friendly glue, they are able to create artwork too!

## Eric Carle Preschool Favorites, available at Fiske Free Library



*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*



*Pancakes, Pancakes!*



*The Tiny Seed*



*Do You Want to Be My Friend?*



*Rooster's Off to See the World.*



*The Mixed-Up Chameleon*



*The Grouchy Ladybug*



*Watch Out! A Giant!*

## Piggyback Songs and Games

A **piggyback song** is when you take the tune of a popular song like “row row row your boat” and change the words to fit your own content, like

“wash wash wash your hands.” Children love the familiarity of tunes and they also love the patterns of books and games. Eric Carle’s books are easily turned into games, but instead of acting out Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See? A new movement game, Children, Children, What do you See? Could be created.

## Movement Game: “Children, Children What Do You See?”

1. Spread different objects throughout the play space
2. The adult calls out the child’s name followed by “What do you see?”
3. The child then chooses an object in the play space (example red spot). The child then says “I see a red spot looking at me”
4. All the children then move quickly to the red spot.
5. Every child in the group has a turn traveling to each object in the play space.
6. Use a variety of movements when traveling from one object to the other like different creatures ( hop, skip, gallop, crawl, crab-walk, giant steps, or tip-toe)
7. Another variation is to have the children hold hands and move together place to place.

## Web Resources

[www.eric-carle.com](http://www.eric-carle.com) This is the official Eric Carle website. Learn more about the author, his books, and his art. Also get a full list of all of his books.

<https://handsonaswegrow.com> Fun hands on activities to do with your kids, select by age and or skill.

<https://www.learning4kids.net> Learning 4 kids play ideas by age or category, there’s also a blog.

<https://preschoolinspirations.com/best-movement-action-songs-children> Fun movement songs that children love! Learn the songs by watching the videos. We are the Dinosaurs is a preschool favorite!