

# MAY



## Eric Carle

Eric Carle was born in America but moved to Germany when he was six. He moved back to America when he was a young man. Eric uses collages of tissue paper to illustrate his books and sometimes adds a surprise. He has written and illustrated more than 70 books. To learn more about Eric go to: [www.eric-carle.com](http://www.eric-carle.com)

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**OTHER RESOURCE SITES:**  
[www.picturebookart.org](http://www.picturebookart.org)

**OTHER BOOKS BY ERIC CARLE:**

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Walter the Baker                    | The Mixed-Up Chameleon      |
| Have You Seen My Cat?               | The Very Hungry Caterpillar |
| The Very Busy Spider                | The Grouchy Ladybug         |
| The Very Quiet Cricket              | The Very Lonely Firefly     |
| Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too? |                             |



- Approaches to Learning through Play
- Creative Thinking and Expression
- Health, Wellness and Physical Development
- Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening
- Mathematics Thinking and Expression
- Partnerships for Learning: Families, Learning Environments and Communities
- Science Thinking and Technology: Exploration, Inquiry and Invention
- Social Emotional Development
- Social Studies Thinking: Connecting "Me" to My Community and the Larger World

## From Head to Toe

What do the animals do? Can you? Of course you can!

- ✦ Make a list of your favorite animals. Play Animal Charades with your family. Take turns choosing an animal, act out the animal's movement and see who can guess what animal is being demonstrated.
- 🔍 Help your child find pictures of animals in magazines, old calendars, or newspapers. Have your child practice cutting them out with a child safe scissors. Work together to group them according to differences and similarities (those with fur, those with scales, those with wings, etc.).
- ✦ Explore parts of the body. Make a "Life Sized Me." Have your child lay down on several sheets of newspaper or another large sized paper. Trace the outline of your child and cut out. Use a crayon or marker to label all the parts of your child's body. Talk about each part.
- ✦ Make an "I Can Do It" book. Draw or take pictures of your child doing different activities. (Ex. I can paint. I can count to \_\_\_\_\_. I can hop on one foot. I can run. I can hop.) Read it together, and add more pages when your child learns new tasks.



### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT OUR BODIES...

Even More Parts: Idioms from Head to Toe by Tedd Arnold  
I Like Myself! by Karen Beaumont  
My Body: Head to Toe by Lisa Bullard

## The Tiny Seed

A tiny seed goes on an adventure until it becomes a giant flower! A simple description of a flowering plant's life cycle through the seasons.

- 🔍 Together with your child, plant flower or vegetable seeds in a soil filled cup or in the ground. Talk about what living things needs to grow. (Minerals/food, Air, Water, Sun) Remember to water and tend your plant. Watch it grow and change. If you planted in a cup, you may need to transplant it into the ground after it grows.



- ➡ Visit a greenhouse or nursery or a garden to see all the different kinds of vegetable and flower plants.

- 🔍 Cut open some fruits and vegetables and look for the seeds. Talk about why fruits and vegetables are part of a healthy diet.
- 🔍 Make a plant diary on paper or in a notebook. Pick a tree, bush or plant on your walk, or in your yard or neighborhood. Draw a picture of the plant or tree. Visit the plant throughout the year to observe and discuss the changes, and record the changes in your diary.

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GROWING PLANTS...

Seeds by Ken Robbins  
A Place to Grow by Stephanie Bloom  
From Dirt To Showers How Seeds Become Flowers by Kristin Morine

## Pancakes, Pancakes!

Jack starts from scratch by cutting and grinding the wheat for flour to help make his breakfast pancake.

- 🔍 Discuss with your child where foods come from (ex. Milk comes from a cow, eggs from a chicken).
- 🔍 Visit or talk about a farm and the animals that provide food. Talk about which animals are found on a farm and which animals are found in the wild.
- ✦ Make and enjoy eating pancakes with your child.
- ✦ Sort food from your family's refrigerator and pantry into two groups: foods that come from plants and foods that come from animals.



### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PANCAKES...

If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Numeroff  
Curious George Makes Pancakes by Margaret Rey, H. A. Rey  
Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie dePaola

## Rooster's Off to See the World

Rooster sets off to see the world and is soon joined by many animals. All the animals decide to return home and rooster does, too.

- 🔍 Ask your child to think about animals that travel on land, in water, or on land and water. Draw a picture of land and water and have your child draw a picture of the animals on the picture according to where they travel. Talk about why they live in that habitat.
- 🔍 Make a list of animals. What is the sound or movement each animal makes? (Ex. Rooster -scratch the ground and crow, Cat - meow and creep, Dog - Bark and jump, etc.)
- ▶ Make different animals using playdough. You can use commercially made or home made playdough. (See Recipe in back of this Activity Guide.)
- ▶ Rooster travels with many different animals in this story. Make up some simple addition problems using animals for your child to solve. For example, rooster met two frogs. How many animals are there now?



### OTHER COUNTING BOOKS...

Olivia Counts by Ian Falconer  
Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On by Lois Ehlert  
Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh