

Using picture books in English Language classes 3 - 6 year olds

***From Head to toe* by Eric Carle**



An empowering book, which helps children build their self-esteem, by saying, "***I can do it!***"

Before reading this picture book

Children should be familiar with some wild animals and some body parts.

Objectives: At the end of this lesson children should be able to: recognise animals and their actions related to a body part, and join in the chorus, "*I can do it.*"

Materials needed for the lesson:

The song 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'; flashcards of all the animals the children know in English

Pre Picture book storytelling activity:

1. Sing 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes', perfect as preparation for this story! Here are the lyrics:

*Head, shoulders, knees and toes. Knees and toes.
Head, shoulders, knees and toes. Knees and toes.
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.
Head, shoulders, knees and toes. Knees and toes.*

2. Ask the children to sit down. Now touch your toes and say, "*I can touch my toes. Can you do it? I can do it!*" Choose a confident child to demonstrate that they can do it, too, ... praise them and help them to say: "*I can do it!*" Repeat with '*Bend my knees*'

3. Show the children the book 'From Head to Toe'. Ask them if they know which animal is on the front cover, praise any child who tries to say this in English and then help all of them to say, "*Gorilla*". Show the gorilla touching his body in two places. Ask '*Can you see where?*' Praise any child who tells you, "head" or "toes", and say this is the name of the story. Now elicit other animals' names from the children in English. Use flashcards if necessary.

4. Open the book and show the children the title page, with the child who is pointing to her head and toes and repeat the title of the book. Ask the children to guess what the story is about. React appropriately to all their suggestions, and praise them all. Explain

/ confirm that this book is about animals and their bodies. Ask the children to see which animals they know in English already that appear in the story.

During picture book storytelling activity.

1. Open the book to the first story page, and point to the penguin. Say, "*I am a penguin and I can turn my head.*" As you say this turn your own head slowly. Check if the children have understood and then ask, "*Can you do it?*". Point to the second illustration and say, "*I can do it!*" Ask individual children to repeat this.
2. Turn the page and continue in this way throughout the story. As you do so, encourage the children to join in as those in the story say, "*I can do it!*". Ask all the children to do each of the actions, too, as you read them.
3. When you get to the final page, look proud and sit up straight. Say, "*I am I*", and point to yourself. Stick out your foot and say, "*...and I can wiggle my toe.*" Ask, "*Can you do it?*" and reply quickly in a squeaky parrot voice, "*I can do it! I can do it!*" Encourage the children to imitate the parrot too!
4. Close the book and ask the children if they enjoyed the story. They may say yes and ask you to read it again. However, before you do this, ask them to tell you which animals appeared in the story. Use the flashcards you have brought to help them remember.
5. Retell the story, and highlight any animals they may have forgotten. Continue to encourage children to join in as you tell the story.

Post picture book storytelling activities.

1. **A TPR movement game:** Kindergarten children love playing 'Statues', or 'STOP!' Ask the children if they can remember what the penguin can do, say, "*I am a penguin and I can...*" pausing for the children to either complete your sentence or demonstrate. The latter is most probable! Go through all the animals one by one and then explain you'd like to play 'STOP!'. Explain that you will say "I am a (animal)" and they must do the action. When you say 'STOP', they should stand like statues. Ask them what statues do/look like to confirm they have understood! Explain that if you see a child move they will have to sit down. Have a practice first to check they've all got the idea and then start the game. When you ask a child to sit down, ask him/her to say 'STOP' for you, so they don't feel so sad! The last child, or two / three children left are the winners, and should be applauded!
2. **Inventing a song:** Adapt the song, 'If you are happy and you know it!' to include actions from the book 'From head to toe'. Get the children to suggest actions, and they'll feel like songwriters! E.g. 'If you are happy and you know it, wave your arms!' 'If you are happy and you know it, wiggle your hips!'
3. **Saying 'I can do it' statements:** Ask children to think about what they can do, and say, "*I am Ana and I can ...*" stand on one foot / do a roly-poly / tie my shoe laces / click my fingers / roll my tongue / cross my eyes... or even just repeat what the animals can do, no problem.