

Body Talk in Rhyme

Sharon MacDonald
photography by Richele Bartkowiak



Before You Read

Before you read, talk about the book cover (title and picture). This will prepare your child to better understand and enjoy the story.

Preview and Predict

- ◆ Point to the words as you read the title. Ask: *Can your body talk? What are the children doing?* Look at the pictures on the back cover. Ask: *Are these bodies talking? What are they saying?*
- ◆ Invite your child to “talk” with his or her body by trying to imitate some of the moves the children are doing on the book cover. Ask: *What do you think we will find out when we read this book?*

Did You Know?

People use gestures and movements to “talk.” Point to the little boy on the back cover who is raising his hands up toward his face. Ask: *What do you think this boy is saying with his body? What are the two girls’ bodies showing?* Make a quiet sign by placing your index finger in front of your lips and ask: *What am I saying?* Cup your hand by your ear and ask: *What am I saying now?* These are examples of body talk. Ask: *Can you tell me something using just your body and no words?*

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Teeth chatter



Hands clap
Feet patter



Double click to zoom in.

Toes tap



Noses twitch
Hips wiggle





Skins itch
Tummies jiggle



Knees knock
Elbows bump





Heels rock
Legs pump



Ears hear
Thumbs twiddle





Eyes tear
Fingers diddle



Cheeks glow
Knuckles crack



Nails grow
Lips smack



Bodies hug
Lashes blink



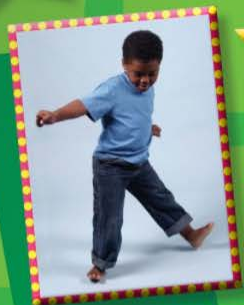
Shoulders shrug



And brains think!

Body Talk in Rhyme Rebus

Can you remember how each body part moves?
Read the rebus story on the following pages.
Use the pictures to help.



Teeth



Hands



Feet



Toes



Nose



Hips



Skin



Tummies



Knees



Elbows



Heels



Legs



Ears



Thumbs



Eyes



Fingers



Cheeks



Knuckles



Nails



Lips



Bodies



Lashes



Shoulders



And brains





Sharon was born in Cleveland, Mississippi right next to the Mississippi River. As a child she would stick her toes in the water when the Mississippi River flooded the cotton fields around her house. She would dangle her legs from the front porch and touch the muddy water with her toes. Sharon attended elementary school through college in Mississippi. Sharon did not learn to spell the word *Mississippi* until she was 21 years old and that was because it was a college graduation requirement! While Sharon says she still can't spell, she loves to write children's books. After all, her computer has spell check!



Richele Bartkowiak lives in Cypress, Texas with her husband, Steve, and their two children, Evan and Audrey. Richele is an artist and a photographer. She spends much of her time photographing children. Richele loves singing, painting, and spending time with her children.

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After You Read

After you read, review the story, ask questions, and connect the story to your child's experiences, thoughts, and feelings.



Rhyming words sound the same at the end. Point to the words *chatter* and *patter* as you say them. Ask: *What part of these words is the same?*



Read the action words on these pages—*knock*, *bump*, *rock*, *pump*. Say: *Move your body to show what the words mean.*



The text says that fingers *diddle*. Use the photos to figure out what the word *diddle* means. Ask: *How can you use pictures to help you understand what new words mean? What else can you do with your fingers?* (snap, clap, tap, fold, count)



Look at each picture, one at a time, and talk about the ways that body part can move. If you can't remember, look back at the pages of the book. You might want to choose and discuss one or two body parts each time you finish reading the story.



Sometimes our bodies tell how we are feeling. Say: *Pretend that you are sad. How will your body show it? Pretend you are afraid, excited, or hurt. Ask: If your friend's body is saying that he is sad, what can you do to help?*