A House Is a House for Me
by Mary Ann Hoberman

Where does an ear of corn or an airplane live? This rollicking rhyme about houses is a longtime favorite.

Before:
Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, Who can tell me what a glove is a house for? A boot? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if all those people and creatures live in that house?

During:
Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and finish the sentences (e.g., A web is a house for a ________). Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in A House Is a House for Me

- flea: a small animal wingless insect that lives as a parasite on a warm-blooded animal
- duchess: the wife of a duke
- dwelling: a house or place where someone lives
- Cree: a member of a Native North American people who live in central Canada and Montana
- Hopi: a member of a Native North American people who live in northeastern Arizona
- Mohee: a member of a Native North American people
- farfetching: beyond reason

After:
Discuss the story. Ask questions…

- Let’s see if you can remember who or what lives where…
- And, best of all, what is a book a house for?

Build a House
Collect several large cardboard boxes and let the children build their own house. If possible, paint with Tempera Paint and decorate with wallpaper.