Commotion in the Ocean
by Giles Andreae

This delightful new collection of poems includes fun rhymes about the creatures who live in and around the ocean.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? 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 why they are smiling?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. 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

• commotion—a scene of noisy activity
• curious—eager to know about something or get information
• creature—any living person or animal
• wrecks—shattered remains of something that has been totally destroyed
• sideways—to or toward one side
• sneaky—doing something in an unfair way
• pretend—act as if something were true
• scamper—to run quickly or playfully
• shame—a negative emotion that combines feelings of dishonor, and embarrassment
• greet—to welcome somebody in a cordial way
• skewer—a thin pointed object used to pierce something or hold it in place
• flaps—to move something up and down, especially wings or arms during flight
• wise—knowing much from experience
• bulging—to expand or swell
• fins—part of fish used for motion
• massive—extremely large in amount
• barnacles—a clinging or dependent person or thing
• blubber—the insulating fat of large ocean mammals
• bellow—to shout something in a loud deep voice
• waddle—to walk with short steps while causing the body to tilt slightly from one side to the other
• icebergs—mass of floating ice
• slither—to slide along easily, as a snake does
Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name some animals making all the commotion at the bottom of the ocean?
- How do crabs walk? Can you walk sideways?
- What animal crawls upon the beach to lay their eggs?
- What animal tries to speak to you? Have you ever gone swimming with the dolphins?
- Can you name the prettiest animal in the ocean?
- What ocean animal has long, sharp teeth and always has a smile on its face?
- What fish chases after smaller fish and skewers them on his sword?
- What fish has eight arms and uses them to tickle his tummy?
- What fish will chop off your fingers if you shake his hand?
- Is a blue whale bigger than a school bus?
- What ocean animal is round with white tusks, and bellows all the time? Have you ever seen a walrus?
- What type of bird waddles on icebergs? Don’t you just love penguins?
- Where do polar bears live? In the Arctic?

**DO**

**Fish Catch**
Provide construction-paper fish in graduating sizes. Put a paper clip on the nose of each one. Provide a fishing pole (magnet on a string tied to a wrapping paper tube). Invite the children to catch the fish and arrange them in order from smallest to largest.