



2017

I Play

Liz Kazandzhy

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Book Review

Title: I Play
Author: David McPhail
Reviewer: Liz Kazandzhy
Publisher: Roaring Brook Press
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9781626721487
Number of Pages: 12
Interest Level: Toddler
Rating: Dependable



Review

Each page of this book presents a different action performed by a playful bear, including both motion verbs (walk, jump, skip) and other verbs (sing, eat, stretch, read). The action is portrayed both by the word itself and by a simple illustration of the bear on a white or pastel-colored background.

At first glance, this book seems too simple to be useful. However, for its target age group it does a wonderful job at serving several purposes. First, it's a light-weight board book that infants and toddlers can easily hold and even gnaw on without negative consequences. Second, the words and charming illustrations work together to teach basic and important concepts that young children are beginning to comprehend. And as a bonus, the text is creatively placed and formatted to match the words in an onomatopoeia-type way. Third, it can be used as an action book, encouraging young children to follow along with the bear. Overall it's a quick, simple, and pleasant book to educate and entertain a young child.