



## **Giles Andreae, Guy Parker-Rees' Giraffes Can't Dance**

### **About this Book:**

This story is about Gerald, a friendly, yet clumsy giraffe and is told in rhythmic, rhyming text that keeps its own beat as it is read aloud. After Gerald is humiliated at the Jungle Dance, he meets a wise, violin-playing cricket who teaches him to discover his own unique and wonderful moves. Children will cheer along with the other animals when Gerald dances triumphantly at the end, twisting his legs around in a backwards somersault. The light and humorous illustrations maintain a sense of optimism throughout the story, even when Gerald is most discouraged. Gerald is a great example of finding one's own way to do what feels impossible.

### **Birth - 1 year old:**

- Talk about the front cover of the book.
- Point and name unfamiliar animals to the child.
- Have a Jungle dance. Turn on some music and encourage the child to dance.

### **2 - 4 years old:**

- Display the book cover and read the title, pointing to each word. Lead a brief discussion that allows children to make some preliminary predictions about what will happen in the story.
- Introduce new vocabulary: Slim, crooked, prance, waltzing, tango, clumsy, swaying, etc.
- Ask questions: What animals do you remember from the story? Describe the animals. Can you name some of the things the animals ate?
- Why was Gerald so sad in the story? Can you think of a time when you felt sad?
- Play a game called "Freeze Dance" Everyone dances as the music plays. When the music stops, each player must freeze immediately and hold that position until the music begins again.