

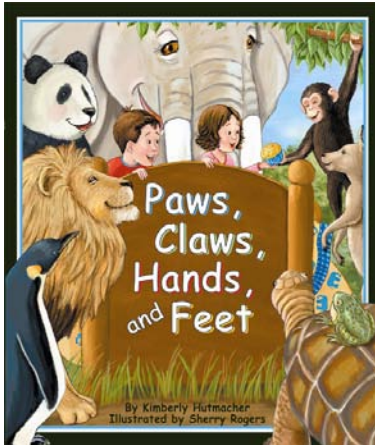


Sylvan Dell Publishing

Science and Math through Literature

Playing With Verbs in *Paws, Claws, Hands, and Feet*

(Thanks to Jena Borah of Illinois for submitting this idea!)



What is a verb? It is an action word; it expresses action (ex: running, think, walk, stood, to go). **As you read or listen to the book, list all the verbs you find.** Here are the possibilities:

Waking
Shaking
Feel
Digging
Dashing
Stashing
Curling
Clinging
Swinging
Prowling
Peeking
Seeking
Spinning
Swooping
Looping
Jumping
Thumping
Bouncing
Leaping
Lunging
Plunging
Dipping
Dashing

Splashing
Roaming
Romp
Stomping
Hipping
Hopping
Bopping
Pacing
Slow (the beat)
Clutching
Clawing
Pawing
Crawling
Creeping
Sleeping
Rounding
Resting
Nesting
Stretching
Sighing
Lying
Dozing
Dreaming

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Activities for Paws, Claws, Hands, and Feet

Play charades with these words.

For readers, place the words on separate slips of paper to be chosen one at a time and acted out. For nonreaders, whisper one of the verbs into the child's ear. Try to guess what he or she is doing.

An Experiment with Verbs

Look at your list of words from the book. What do all these verbs have in common? The most obvious answer is that they are all action words, and that's right. They also have –*ing* at the end (except for *feel* and *slow*, but the child might not notice those). For a pre-reader, focus on the sound at the end of each word. For a reader, point out how they have a similar spelling.

Does every verb end with –*ing*?

Let's experiment.

Feel free to simplify or leave out information based on your child's level. The names of the tenses are not important, but may be interesting to an older child. The purpose of this experiment is to experience the fact that verbs change based on position in time and to prove that not every verb ends in –*ing*.

Take a verb from the list and talk about that action happening *yesterday*. Verbs that happen in the past are called **past tense verbs**. If you need help, fill in the blank with various verbs.

Yesterday, the penguin _____ down the slope.

Here's another form of a verb called **the infinitive**. Fill in the blank with verbs from your list to see how they change. Infinitive verbs start with the word "to."

I like to _____. Example: I like to dig.

The verbs on your list are called the present continuous forms of various verbs. They tell us that action is happening right now in a continuous way, and they usually end in –*ing*. But what if you don't want to express a continuous action? What if you want to have an action take place right now and stop? That's called the **simple present tense**. You do it like this:

I clutch.

You clutch.

He clutches.



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We clutch.

They clutch.

Now pick a verb from your list and transform it into its simple present form.

I _____.

You _____.

He _____.

We _____.

They _____.

The Conclusion of Our Experiment

What is a verb?

Do all verbs end in *-ing*? _____yes _____no

Act Out the Book

After reading the book at least once to your children, read it again slowly as they pantomime the antics of the animals. They could also use stuffed animals as the “actors.”

For more fun activities, visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com!



Paws,
Claws,
Hands,
and Feet

