Tickle Monster
The 2016 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Édouard Manceau
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Page by page, children are invited to transform a monster by tickling it and turning each scary piece into everyday objects instead. *Tickle Monster* offers an irresistible opportunity for a positive reading experience by allowing children to engage directly with the actions of a story.

Activity Ideas for *Tickle Monster*:

- Ask the children to identify the shapes in the illustrations. Help the children trace their fingers around the shapes on the pages. Next, have the children cut out different shapes from construction paper. Create monsters out of the construction paper shapes and then encourage the children to rearrange the shapes into a different scene, just like in the story. When children practice using scissors and holding small objects, they are also building the muscles necessary for learning how to write.

- *Tickle Monster* names different body parts throughout the book. Go back through the pages and talk about them, then sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.”
  
  Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.
  Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.
  Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.
  Head, shoulders, knees and toes.

After the children learn this song and motions, ask them to sing the song and do the movements very quickly. Next, have the children sing and act it out very slowly. Performing the song at different tempos helps children learn to follow directions and regulate their actions, skills they will need to focus attention on reading and writing.

- Look at the pictures together and notice the position of different objects. Are the horns *on* the monster’s head? Is the moon *above* the monster? Are the trees *next to* each other? Are the teeth *below* the nose? Talking about positional words gives children a chance to learn vocabulary words for ideas they can’t see and touch. The bigger a child’s spoken vocabulary, the more words they will recognize in print.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit [http://www.clel.org](http://www.clel.org) and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.

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