

# I Don't Want to Be a Frog!

## The 2016 CLEL Bell Award Book for TALK

by Dev Petty, illustrated by Mike Boldt  
ISBN-13: 978-0385378666  
Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2015



A curious frog tells his father that he doesn't want to be a frog but would rather be the animals he observes and learns about in books. Talking with children helps them learn about the world, understand their experiences, and build comprehension skills. Responding to children's questions in a patient and loving way creates opportunities for bonding and wires children's brains for learning.

### Activity Ideas for *I Don't Want to Be a Frog!*:

- Fingerprint with the children. Talk about how the paint looks and feels. Are you using green paint, like the color of the frogs in the story? How does the paint feel on your fingers? Is it slimy like a frog? Is it too wet? Using words from the story to describe the paint will reinforce the vocabulary and help children understand the story better. Fingerprinting also develops muscles in children's hands and arms that supports them when they are learning how to write.
- Reading books exposes children to new ideas and information about the world. What animals do the children want to learn more about? Visit the library and check out nonfiction books with true facts about animals. Learning about the world around them will help children understand more of what they read.
- Sing "The Little Green Frog" song.  
*"Gung, gung," went the little green frog one day,  
"Gung, gung," went the little green frog,  
"Gung, gung," went the little green frog one day,  
And his eyes went, "aah, aah, gung."*  
Sing the song a few times, then ask the children to choose new colors, animals, and animal noises for the song. Songs help children learn basic sentence patterns, and give them practice hearing and saying the individual sounds of words, which will help them when they are sounding out words and reading sentences on the page.

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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> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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