A bird leaves the usual chirps behind in a quest to find just the right new thing to say. Full of unexpected but fun made-up words, *Froodle* is a celebration of language and self-expression.

**Activity Ideas for *Froodle***:

- Have the children draw cartoon animals (or for younger children, cut out magazine pictures, print clip art, or invite them to create their own “animal scribbles”). Add empty word bubbles to the pictures, and ask the children what their animals say. It could be “moo” for a cow, or something silly! Whatever it is, write it down in the word bubble. Writing down what children say and reading it back to them not only helps children feel involved, but also shows them that reading and writing are important.

- Playing with language by making up nonsense words and rhymes helps children hear the individual parts of words and develop the phonological skills that will help them sound out words on the page. “Willoughby Wallaby Woo” is a simple rhyming song that helps children listen for rhyming words and have fun with language.
  
  Willoughby Wallaby Woo, and elephant sat on you!
  Willoughby Wallaby Wee, an elephant sat on me!
  Willoughby Wallaby Wanya, an elephant sat on Anya!

  As you sing together, pause before the last word and let the children say the rhyming word!

- Use craft popsicle sticks and simple construction paper shapes to make simple bird puppets in different colors. Give the children the puppets while you read the book and invite them to hold them up when their bird appears in the story. Can they say what the bird says? Let the children use the puppets to act out the story when you are done reading together. Learning how to tell stories with a beginning, a middle, and an end helps children build comprehension skills.