Say Zoop! encourages children and caregivers to interact with the pages of the book by inviting them to place their fingers on different colored dots and make the sounds that the book describes for each dot. Making noises helps children practice the different sounds in words which will help them in acquiring language.

Activity Ideas for Say Zoop!:

- Try talking nonsense! When reading a book with a child, suddenly start replacing the words on the page with funny noises. Make your voice sound like you are still reading the actual words. Vary the pitch and tone of your voice to help tell the story. For short words, make short sounds. For long words, make longer sounds. Invite your child to join in the fun! Taking turns making silly sounds together is a fun way for children to experience how conversation works and to practice oral language skills.

- Colored dots are the main feature of the illustrations in Say Zoop! Children can make colored dot paintings with cotton swabs and a few colors of paint. Encourage children to dip a cotton swab into paint and make dots on the paper. Invite children to make a different noise for each color. Red can be “Bleeep!” Maybe blue is “Shhh.” Small dots can have quiet sounds and bigger dots can have loud sounds. Painting and drawing help develop hand muscles and the coordination necessary for writing.

- Cut different colored circles out of paper or craft felt, large enough for children to stand on. Place the circles on the floor and assign each color a different sound. Then have the children hop between the circles, making the right noise for each dot as they land on it. Move the circles to create a different pattern and play again! You can say, “Go to the yellow circle and make the right noise.” Or, “Find the circle for the POP noise and jump on it!” Following directions and strengthening gross motor skills are two skills children will need to succeed in school.

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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