

# Tips from the Author

I hope you will read my book often, each time discovering something new and exciting. A great reward, as a visiting children's author and storyteller, is to hear a child shout, "Read it, again!" *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme* offers many opportunities for extended activities. Here are a few ideas:

- In addition to counting the ten rainforest creatures, what other living things can you find and count?
- Use some of the rainforest animal puppets that are available along with a rain stick as "story stretchers."
- Draw and cut out masks for each rainforest creature. Each child can act out the story with his or her mask.
- Talk about the different layers of the rainforest where the animals live and have the children create a rainforest diorama using polymer or Model Magic clay.

Here is a special treat that I've written for this book. As you sing or read the story, try using different body movements for each animal's action.

**Marmosets:** Swing right arm across body on the word "swing," then left arm on second "swing". (Arms are now crossed.) Raise them up high on hung and grab the air with fingers.

**Morphos:** Slowly wave both arms at sides for "flit", then bringing hands together in front, flutter fingers quickly.

**Parrots:** Stamp right foot on first "squawk"; left foot on second "squawk". Then with tiny sideward steps walk stiffly.



## Leaf cutter

**ants:** Get down on hands and feet and quickly scurry to the right and hurry to the left.

## Honey bears:

With arms at sides, raise one shoulder to ear on "scramble"; then the other.



On "scrambled and rambled", move both shoulders forward in a circular motion.

**Boa constrictor:** On the floor, curl on one side, stretching arms way out in front and pull in as if squeezing, on the words, "squeezed" and "pleased".

**Poison dart frog:** Hop on one foot; then the other and quietly fall down on "plop".

**Ocelot:** Bending forward, place hands under chin as if waiting. Then jump forward on first "pounce" and backward on second "pounce". Then jump up and down on "bounced".

**Sloth:** Get on back and move shoulders backwards slowly on "creep". On the word "slept", raise legs as if hanging and hold without moving.

**Howler monkey:** Place one hand under armpit on first "hoot", and other hand under armpit on second "hoot". Now move both arms with hands still under armpits and "hoot and holler."

At the end of the story, children can run and hide on "find us", either to a personal space if they are sitting on a carpet square or to their desks.

Perhaps you can think of other ways to get children actively involved. I would love to hear from teachers and parents with creative ways to use this book. My website is [www.MarianneBerKes.com](http://www.MarianneBerKes.com)