



Choose to Read Ohio
presents
Curious Critters: Marine
by David FitzSimmons



Amazing marine animals—from a spectacular spoonbill to a rare blue lobster—posed for portraits. Good thing photographer and writer David FitzSimmons jotted down what the agile angelfish, proud puffin, singing sea star, and other Curious Critters had to say!

Talking: Each of the marine animals has some basic needs, including food, shelter, and protection. As you read the book together, point out to your child some ways that different animals take care of these needs. Talk about what people need and how it is the same and different: we all need food and water, but do we eat the same things as a fish, crustacean, or bird eats?

Singing: Singing and rhyming help children hear and identify the different sounds that make up words. You can sing the cushion sea star's story to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and you can recite the candy stripe shrimp's story as a rap. Give it a try!

Reading: For read-aloud time, pair stories from **Curious Critters: Marine** with fiction picture books such as **Mister Seahorse** by Eric Carle and **Flotsam** by David Wiesner. Your librarian can recommend more picture books about marine animals.

Writing: Use the silhouettes page for a fun activity to give your child practice in pre-writing skills including hand-eye coordination and fine motor control. Encourage your preschooler to draw a marine animal silhouette freehand (without tracing) and to fill it in by crayon.

Playing: Pretend the floor is the ocean bed and the walls are a coral reef. Your child can be one of the marine animals depicted in the book... and you pretend to be another! How does each of you move? How do you interact with each other? What story can you tell about the two of you?

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For more information visit Ohio Ready to Read: ohreadytoread.org
and Choose to Read Ohio: library.ohio.gov/ctro.



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