**AUTHOR:**

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Gerald the giraffe has long skinny legs which are good for standing on and munching on trees, but when it comes to dancing he isn't very good. Will he dance at the Jungle Dance?

Ages: 2 to 9 years**Interest Level:** Toddler to 3rd Grade**ATOS Reading Level:** 3.8**Lexile:** AD570L**ISBN:** 9780545392556**Copyright:** 1999**Genre:** Fiction**Classification:** Picture Story Book

Giraffes Can't Dance

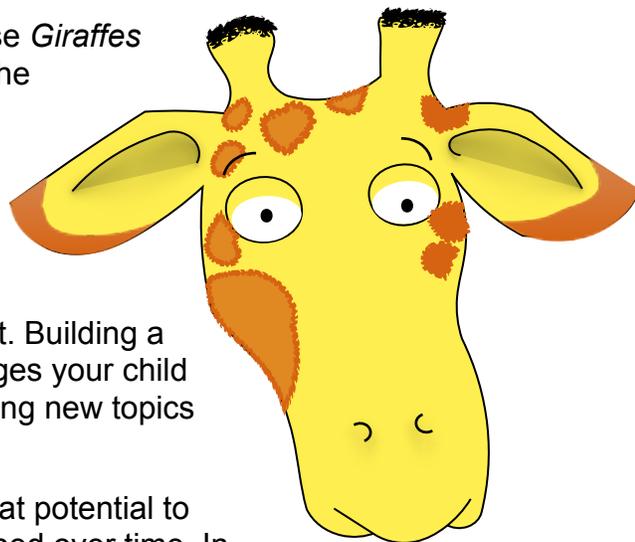
Will Gerald dance at the Jungle Dance?

Topics: growth mindset

Math Connections: Use *Giraffes*

Can't Dance to discuss the importance of a growth mindset with your child.

A growth mindset means a person will not give up when learning something new, even when it gets difficult. Building a growth mindset encourages your child to persevere when learning new topics and skills.



People are born with great potential to learn that can be developed over time. In the book, Gerald the giraffe wasn't born a good dancer; however, he shows that he can learn to dance through practice, perseverance, and support from friends. Practice and perseverance are important when learning something new. These qualities, along with maintaining a positive outlook, are beneficial to children and adults when learning math.

Giraffes Can't Dance also highlights the value of supporting children's efforts while learning something new. Struggling and making mistakes are a part of learning. It is important to encourage children to keep trying when learning something difficult. Provide support to children by asking open-ended, guiding questions. For example, asking "Why do you think that? What can you try next? How did you figure that out? or How could you do that differently?"

After reading, talk with your child about how Gerald didn't give up and why they think it is important that Gerald tried again to dance. Ask your child what they think would have happened if Gerald didn't try one more time. How would Gerald feel if he quit trying? Ask your child how you can best support them when they are learning something new. Talk with them about how it feels when they get support. How do they think they can support and encourage others?

Extension Questions:

1. How do you know that Gerald the giraffe had a growth mindset?
2. Why is a growth mindset important when learning math? How do you know someone has a growth mindset? What does having a growth mindset look like to you?
3. What do you do when something doesn't work out exactly as you planned? What do you do? Could you do anything differently?
4. Why is it important to believe in yourself?

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	all, amount, eight, long, numbers, one, tall, up
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	growth mindset
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	buckled, crooked, munching, somersault, splendid, useless, waltzing

Early Math Project Resources:

Dance Party: <https://bit.ly/3gmTq3l>(English)

Dance Party: (Spanish)

Online Resources:

Activities for Kindergarteners from Kindergarten at Heart:

<https://bit.ly/2I3HIDi>

Growth Mindset in Mathematics from Big Life Journal:

<https://bit.ly/3mSgh97>

Teaching a Growth Mindset from Big Life Journal: <https://bit.ly/3I0dYAd>

Spanish Title: *Las Jirafas no Pueden Bailar*

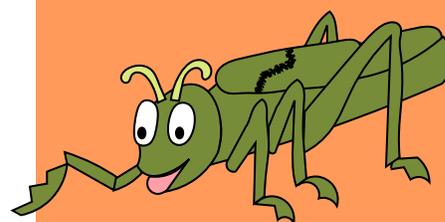
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Also available in:
French and Polish

Related Books: *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds; *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* and *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires

Find this book at your local library: <https://www.worldcat.org/title/giraffes-cant-dance/oclc/1127382183?referer=di&ht=edition>



Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	Infant Toddler Foundations https://bit.ly/3ozQios
Infant/ Toddler	Problem Solving The developing ability to engage in a purposeful effort to reach a goal or figure out how something works.
Preschool/ TK	Preschool Learning Foundations https://bit.ly/34vEeN3
Preschool/ TK	Mathematical Reasoning 1.0 Children use mathematical thinking to solve problems that arise in their everyday environment.
Grades K-3	California Common Core State Math Standards K-12 https://bit.ly/31No7bP
Kindergarten	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
Grade 1	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
Grade 2	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
Grade 3	Standards for Mathematical Practice: 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.