BOOK TITLE: Silly Sally
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SUMMARY OF BOOK: “Silly Sally went to town, walking backwards, upside down.” Along the way, she meets various animals just as silly as she is. They do goofier and goofier things, finally getting to town. Wonderful rhyme, lively illustrations, easy repetition.

BEFORE READING (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book):

Try questions such as these:

1. Talk about the cover of the book: “Is this going to be a funny book or a serious book? How can you tell?”
2. “Is Sally right-side-up or upside down?”
3. Depending on the size of your child, bend or lift her to be upside down. “How does the world look when you’re upside down?”

DURING READING (ask these questions):

1. As you come across the repeating lines, encourage your child to repeat them with you. Emphasize the small changes to the rhymes (walking → dancing → leaping). Soon you will be able to give the prompt and he will complete it!
2. While you can’t do things upside down, you can walk, dance, leap, sing, and tickle with your child — and you can do it backwards!
3. What does your child notice in the pictures? What appeals to her silliness? Spend time with those things.
4. Try inventing other silly ways Sally can go to town: hopping backwards, skipping backwards, etc. Get moving!
5. Relate to your child’s experience: “How do we usually go to town? Do we drive/walk/bike backwards?”

AFTER READING (activity to extend book experience):

1. Next time you’re going somewhere, ask if your child wants to do it like Silly Sally.
2. Try creating rhyme in your conversations: “Where are your shoes? Do they need to snooze?” “Should we go to the store or lie on the floor?” Make up words, get silly.
3. Try looking at the world upside down together and talk about it.
4. It looks like Nedly Buttercup was right-side-up until Sally tickled him. Tickle your child and turn him upside down. Make the connection back to the book.