Act-Along Story

When you read each bolded action word or phrase, encourage children to participate by acting out the movement along with you.

Elmo jumps up and down. He is so excited! Today is the day he gets to take care of the class hamster, Spotty. When it is time, Elmo pets and feeds him. Elmo pulls him out of his cage and puts him on the ground. Spotty runs through the room. Spotty runs around a corner. Spotty does not come back. Elmo feels frustrated! Elmo has a problem. Elmo needs to find Spotty. First, Elmo takes three slow, deep breaths. Then Elmo thinks, “What’s Elmo’s problem? Elmo’s problem is that he lost Spotty.” Then Elmo thinks, “What are some plans Elmo can use to find Spotty?” Elmo comes up with three plans. “Elmo can chase after Spotty,” he thinks. “Elmo can call for Spotty,” or, “Elmo can put out some food for Spotty.”

Now it’s time for Elmo to do something. It’s time for him to try a plan. Elmo is determined. He will try and try until he finds Spotty. Elmo decides to call for Spotty, but Spotty does not come. “That plan did not work,” says Elmo. Elmo is persistent. He tries again. Elmo decides to chase after Spotty. Elmo looks in each room. He looks under a table, he climbs over a chair. Elmo can’t find Spotty. That plan did not work, either. Elmo goes back to the cage and fills a bowl full of Spotty’s favorite food. Spotty comes back! He runs right to Elmo. “It worked!” says Elmo, jumping up and down. Elmo is ecstatic! Hooray!