Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing will introduce your child to some new vocabulary words. Explain to your child what these words mean. Researchers have found that children who have heard a lot of different words have a larger vocabulary, and have an easier time learning to read because they already know what the word means.

**Definitely** - for sure, without doubt
**Disastrous** - very, very bad
**Terribly hot** - very, very hot
**Manage** - get along

Children’s books have about 31 rare words per thousand words. That is three times more than in conversation and 25% more rare words than what is on TV. The more rare words your child knows, the easier it will be for them when they begin learning to read.

## Books about Clothes!

- **Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?** by Nancy Carlstrom
- **Charlie Needs a Cloak** by Tomie de Paola
- **The Philharmonic Gets Dressed** by Karla Kuskin
- **Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons** by Eric Litwin
- **The Jacket I Wear in the Snow** by Shirley Neitzel
- **Get Dressed!** by Gwenyth Swain
- **You Forgot Your Skirt** by Corey, Shana
- **Olivia** by Ian Falconer
- **Froggy Gets Dressed** by Jonathan London
- **Too Purply!** by Jean Reidy
- **Max’s Dragon Shirt** by Rosemary Wells

## Extend the Book

Ask your child to think about how clothes can sometimes be a problem for them (if they cannot tie their shoes, or if their pants are too long and they trip over them). Point out that people sometimes put clothes on animals. On cold days, some people dress dogs in sweaters and put blankets on horses. Ask them what they think would happen if animals decided to wear clothes but they made the wrong choices.

Read the story again and talk about what is going on in the pictures. This way of sharing the story will help develop your child’s vocabulary. Talk to them about the different parts of the animals (the quills of the porcupine, the humps of a camel, and the pouch of a kangaroo). Ask your child what the animal might use these for. Tell them what you know about that animal. Come to the library and borrow non-fiction books about the animals to show your child what the animal looks like and to learn more about them!

While reading the story, ask your child if this is a good piece of clothing for them to wear. Talk about why it does not work for that animal. Ask them what piece of clothing might be better (Why does a shirt not work for the porcupine?) Because his quills tear the shirt apart. What would be better for him? A hat could sit on his head without getting hit by the quills.)
Here are some fun songs and rhymes!

**Down by the Bay** *(sung by Raffi)*
Down by the bay,
Where the watermelons grow,
Back to my home,
I dare not go,
For if I do,
My mother will say:
"Did you ever see a goose, kissing a moose?"
...down by the bay?"

**Repeat using:**
"Did you ever see a whale, with a polka-dot tail?"
"Did you ever see a fly wearing a tie?"
"Did you ever see a bear, combing his hair?"
"Did you ever see llamas, eating their pajamas?"
"Did you ever have a time when you couldn't make a rhyme?"

**Other verses you could use:**
"Did you ever see a fox, hiding in a box?"
"Did you ever see a fish do a hula in a dish?"
"Did you ever see a duck in a pickup truck?"
"Did you ever see a bee, with a sunburnt knee?"
"Did you ever see a snake baking a cake?"
"Did you ever see a cat, wearing a hat?"
"Did you ever see an ant, climbing a plant?"
"Did you ever see a mouse, building a house?"

**ALLIGATORS ALL DRESSED** *(act out)*
Five little alligators get up to dress
The first one buttons up his vest
The second one wears tall boots that tap
The third one puts on a cowboy hat
The fourth one ties a big bow tie
The fifth one tips his hat – Goodbye!

**Boom Boom Ain’t it Great to be Crazy**
Boom, boom, ain’t it great to be crazy?
Boom, boom, ain’t it great to be nuts?
Giddy and foolish the whole day through
Boom, boom, ain’t it great to be crazy?
A horse and a flea and three blind mice sat
on a curbstone shooting dice. The horse he
slipped and fell on the flea. "Whoops," said
the flea, "There's a horse on me!"

**Chorus**
Way down South where bananas grow
A flea stepped on an elephant's toe
The elephant cried, with tears in his eyes
"Why don't you pick on someone your own
size?"

**Chorus**
Way up North where there's ice and snow
There lived a penguin and his name was Joe
He got so tired of black and white
He wore pink slacks to the dance last night!

**Sally the Camel has 5 Humps**
Sally the camel has 5 humps.
*(Bend at knees each time you say "Five humps.")*
Sally the camel has 5 humps.
*(Wiggle hips from side to side.)*
Repeat words and actions counting down
from 5 to 1.
Sally the camel has no humps.
Sally the camel has no humps.
Sally the camel has no humps.
Because Sally is a horse.

**Love Is A Circle**
Love is a circle,
Round and round *(make a circling motion with arm)*
Love goes up, *(raise arms up)*
And Love comes down, *(lower arms)*
Love is on the inside, *(pull hands inward towards chest)*
Trying to get out, *(pull hands away from chest)*
Love is whirling and twirling about!
*(move hands in a spinning motion)*