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Slither, Slide, What's Outside?

Nora Hilb and Simon and Sheryl Shapiro
Nora Hilb, illustrator
Annick Press (February 2012)
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Parents, caregivers, and teachers will immediately warm to the plethora of concepts—from animals and seasons to rhymes and adjectives—that *Slither Slide, What's Outside?* offers their young children. Preschoolers, however, will simply see this attractive package as part of their quest to explore the natural world around them. Depicting a variety of kids at play, indoors and out, this inventive book starts with them planting a seedling in spring and progresses through the seasons as they splash in a summer rain to beat the heat, scoop out pumpkins to make jack-o'-lanterns, and skate across a frozen pond.

The book consists of a series of double-page spreads. On one side, active children adorably rendered in gentle watercolors are featured along with a rhythmic, rhyming, alliterative text that bursts with energy ("Bouncing and bounding/ right over the log. / Long legs are leaping—it must be a frog. / Croak!"). The combination of rollicking play and action-packed text will inspire young readers to get up and move along with the words.

Readers will also respond to the corresponding pages, with related, full-color photographs of nature outlined in pastel borders. These large, crisp, photographs sport such traditionally beautiful images as a forest rain, a waterfall, a rainbow, and ice-covered branches, plus lesser-known but equally engaging wind turbines and a snow plow. Other pictures include a brown bear, a frog, flying geese, and a red worm. Many of the photographs depict their subjects up close and in enough detail for children to witness a pool's ripples, a pumpkin's ridges, a bear's whiskers, a frog's spots, and even the insides of the translucent red worm.

Authors Simon and Sheryl Shapiro are also the creators of the children's poetry compilation *Better Together*. Nora Hilb, who specializes in illustration for very young children, has contributed to numerous award-winning children's picture books, including *Wiggle Giggle Tickle Train* and *Leo's Tree*. Together this trio's effort piques young readers' imaginations and makes learning easy, accessible, and, above all, fun.
ANGELA LEEPER (April 27, 2012)

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