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# Froggy Learns To Swim



## Synopsis

Zzzziinnnggg splash! Everyone's favorite frog learns to swim! Frogs are supposed to be great swimmers. "Not me!" says Froggy, who's afraid of the water. But with a little encouragement, some practice, and the help of a silly song or two, Froggy becomes an expert frog-kicker! Froggy's childlike dialogue and the sound words "zook! Zik!"; "flop flop . . . splash!" make this a wonderful read aloud. School Library Journal An IRA/CBC Children's Choice A Junior Library Guild Selection

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 320 (What's this?)

Series: Froggy

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (June 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140553126

ISBN-13: 978-0140553123

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.2 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,905 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports #38 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Frogs & Toads #177 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

I agree with the other reviews that this book is especially splendid in its illustrations, text and message. Like many young children, Froggy is fearful of the water (and, presumably, other new experiences). However, by taking it at his own pace, and with the encouragement of his mother, he soon masters his skills at swimming (anyone who has or works with young children will empathize with a tired mom & dad frog who are still waiting patiently on into the night as Froggy practices his new learning). While very cute, age appropriate and fun, I have only one criticism: at one point, no doubt for humorous effect, Froggy loses his bathing suit and "turns more red than green." Demanding his parents NOT to look, he skedaddles into the bushes and re-suits. Perhaps I'm

reading into this too much, but I would hope that children don't come to develop negative body issues re: being nude, especially around their own parents (no one else is at the beach with Froggy, Mom & Dad). My only concern is that this might reinforce the unnecessary shameful aspect of nudity that people in this country embrace and that, IMHO, is often one of the issues that lead to negative body image in children in America (why do you think we have so many anorexic/bulimic children here??)

I and my children found this book helpful when discussing fears and swimming lessons. Not only is the book fun to read (neat sounds, etc.), it has the added bonus of providing two useful teaching tools for beginning swimmers. I have to say that the part where Froggy loses his bathing suit is overdone, and really is not necessary to the story. It conveys embarrassment about nudity when it really isn't necessary. A little skillful editing while reading can minimize this. The bottom line is that I and my son found the book helpful, it is well written, and has enjoyable illustrations.

This is the first book I got to share with my 2 year old about learning to swim. The model is basically that the mother laughs at and mocks the child's ineptitude, and eventually the child learns to swim out of sheer luck. This is not how I would teach, and I would want my child not to have to learn without instruction. Also, I did not like the example of Froggy trying to swing as high as he could until the swing went over the top of the swingset. The climax and denouement involve Froggy's pants coming off in the water. If your child is older (maybe 7 or so) and still does not know how to swim, this book is for you. Otherwise, you are probably better off making up your own story.

I feel bad writing such a negative review, but this book is not something I would recommend to others. I dislike reading it so much, that I hid it from my daughter. The writing is subpar at best, which is something I find often in children's books. I get that the author is trying to make it silly for children, but I really don't enjoy narrating "whiny" text. Some examples being, "FRRRRRROOOOGGYYY," "what are you do-o-o-ing," "I don't want to," etc... My main issues with the content are:- The constant use of the word "drowning" or "drow-w-w-ning"- The slight mocking of Froggy by his parents for not being able to swim- The fact that Froggy constantly talks back to his Mom You might find these things minor, but when you are reading this to a child who is fearful of the water and is learning to swim, you do not need to have the frog constantly crying how he is drowning every time he gets into the water. Drowning is very serious and not something I want my kid to think will happen when she gets into the water. Conversely, I do not want her yelling out "I'm dro-www-niing" as a joke

either. Also, having him whine about learning the "techniques" and then "glubbing and blubbing" as he sinks into the water just rubs me the wrong way. When I read the book to my child, I changed or skipped over all the parts where the frog was drowning or sinking into the water because -he- was refusing his Mother's attempts to teach him how to swim. All of this, coupled with the rude tone Froggy takes with his Mom and her giving in to his every demand, really soured my feelings towards reading this to my preschooler. I think the idea behind the book is solid, but it needs a lot of revisions to make it a nightly read in my household.

Our family loves all the books in this series. We started with Froggy Gets Dressed when my daughter was 2 and now she is 6. She was requesting more Froggy books. They are priced so good that we got her 6 more for her birthday and she loves them all!! Her dad and I enjoy reading them too! Great author and illustrations. Good for new readers too!

Eh, I was hoping for something a little more encouraging for my toddler as we prepared for our first swim lesson but it seemed like they had a good story going and then were told to add more. Strong beginning, weak finish.

What can I say.....the Froggy book series are fantastic! Jonathon London writes so well that children can help but enjoy the book. And Frank Remkiewicz is a wonderful illustrator - he makes the books come alive with his drawings of Froggy and the rest of the gang! I started my daughter on these books when she was about 4 or 5 and she is almost 10 and she still enjoys breaking out her old Froggy books and reading them! This is the type of book you want your children to read again and again! If you start them on the Froggy series books early they will learn to enjoy the books and other books. The books are tons of fun!

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