

Create a Free Verse Poem

A step by step guide for parents:

- Show your child the video footage of Emperor penguins moving around on the ice, including when they huddle together to keep warm: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWTwan_G6YE&list=PLQlnTldJsOZTFj6O9xhS_9TU36EzjTGa&index=5&t=0s
- Ask your child to explore the room as if they are a penguin moving on the ice. Encourage them to explore alone, as well as pretending they are protecting an egg and, at points, huddling with other penguins (that'll be you).
- Afterwards, ask your child to suggest interesting verbs to describe how they moved as a penguin. Record these on paper. Try to extend your child's ideas by referring back to interesting verbs used in the class text that you read earlier. Pick out the words that describe the penguins' actions and add them to your list (e.g. waddle, snuggle, shuffle, huddle, trundle, gobble, slide).
- Now we will use this bank of words that you have created to compose a free verse poem. Free verse poems are great as they don't need to rhyme. I have uploaded an example from the famous author 'Michael Rosen'. If your child feels that it is too tricky, you could keep it as simple as listing your favourite words in a vertical list. You could then add more detail if you are feeling confident. Poetry doesn't have to be tricky.