

Snizzly Snouts, an award winning picture and poetry book to read with your ears, to look at with your fingers, to feel with your eyes. Written by Jan Dewitte, illustrated by Freya Vlerick, translated by Marcus Cumberlege and Martin Burke, and read by Karl Browne. Published by Blindenzorg Licht en Liefde, Belgium, and NCBI, Ireland.

Place your finger in the top left hand corner of the page and move it along the edge downwards. This is the elephant's shoulder. The elephant's back, bottom, tail and legs are not on the page.

Let's move now to the right, over the shoulder to his ear which is made of lots of little dots. Elephants have very big ears. Feel Ollie the elephant's ear. It's like a map of Africa! Did you know that an African elephant's ear is the shape of Africa? And what's more: an Indian elephant's ear is the shape of India.

And continuing downwards we pass his eye. He has a big, blue eye. You can see the eyelashes and even a little bit of pink skin around the eye. Real elephants have small eyes and can't see very far. But they can feel and hear extremely well.

Now move further downwards. You will feel something that is long and thick – what could that be? Is it Ollie's trunk? No, that's much longer. So what is it? It is his tusk – a long white tooth extending from his jaw. Elephants have two tusks, on the left and right of their trunk, and these could be as long as three meters!

If we move further downwards, we find Ollie's trunk. An elephant's trunk has a lot of wrinkles and muscles, but you can't feel these here. The end of the trunk is on the right-hand page.

Ollie's trunk is extremely useful to him. He can breathe through it, smell with it, and blow it like a trumpet, but also suck up water, lift up small objects and, if he has to, fight with it.

In this picture, Ollie is busy with his favorite pastime: squirting water! Breathing in and breathing out, slurping up the water and then spouting it out like a fountain!

The water is drawn with very fine blue lines on the right-hand page, which is white. Look: Ollie is painting with water! The water he sprays looks like the head of an animal. Can you feel which animal it is?

Are you a little bit jealous, Ollie? Ah yes: the animal you are painting is very good at jumping, while you can't jump at all!

(Imitation of a horse)

More information about Snizzly Snouts on www.snizzlysnouts.com