



# CHILDPLAY

RESOURCES

# Eddie & Vinnie



**The Big Idea:**  
Discover Your Assets

Written by Jenny Millinger

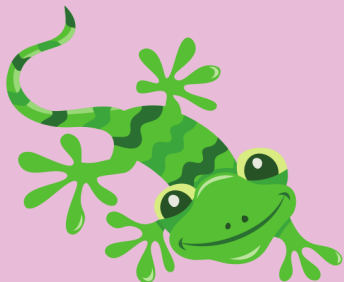
Directed by Jon Gentry



# Meet the Team

## Cast

Eddie ..... Noah Delgado  
Vinnie ..... Clara Bentz  
Pen ..... Ryan L. Jenkins



## Creative Team

Director ..... Jon Gentry  
Playwright ..... Jenny Millinger

## Design and Crew

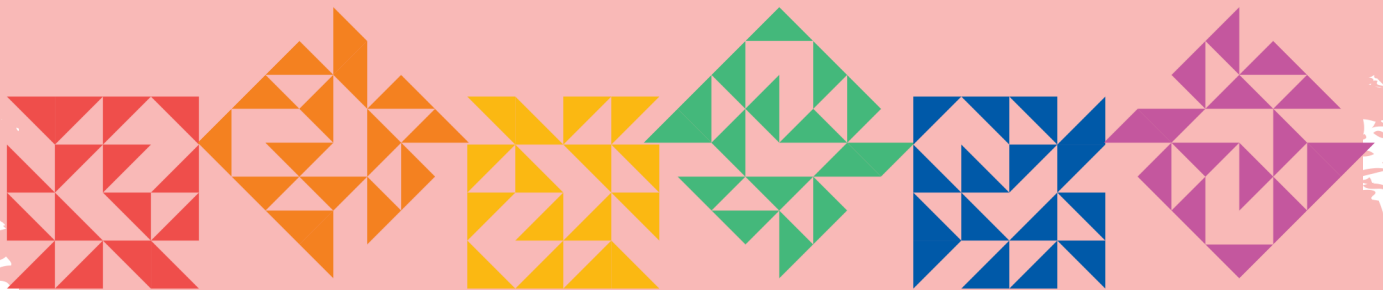
Scenic Designer ..... Brunella Provvidente  
Costume Designer ..... Ashley Gambo  
Media Designer ..... Chris Ignacio



# What the Play is About

At its heart, *Eddie and Vinnie* is a buddy comedy about Eddie, a boy with dyslexia, and his best friend/sidekick, a wise-cracking gecko named Vinnie. Together, they make a dynamic duo, with Vinnie's antics offering both laughs and insights into how Eddie's creative mind works.

Eddie is a skilled artist who struggles with schoolwork. When facing the possibility of attending summer school if he can't get his grades up, Eddie teams up with a new classmate named Pen – or “Miss Perfect,” as Eddie calls her – on a school project about the artist MC Escher.



Pen is all about details and planning. She is organized and detail-oriented, often laying out strict plans for their work. At times Eddie feels overwhelmed by Pen's approach, but he is determined to succeed. With Vinnie's encouragement, Eddie introduces a unique method to the project. He uses vibrant tiles to visually represent Escher's art, tapping into his artistic strengths and making the information more digestible for him.

Pen starts to see Eddie's point of view too. At first, she's all about her organized methods, but Eddie's artistic skills catch her eye. She realizes there's more than one way to tackle a problem, and both can be right. This understanding brings them closer as teammates.

Things get tricky when Pen drops a bombshell: she can't be there for their big presentation. Eddie's nervous about going solo, but with a pep talk from Vinnie and the strategies they've brainstormed, he steps up to the plate, ready to shine.

# Themes of the Show

- Discover Your Assets
- Friendship
- Intent vs Impact
- The Power of Art



## Talk About It!

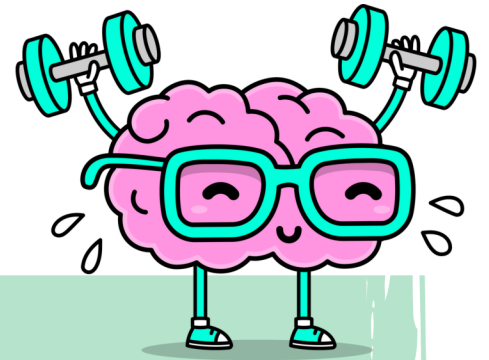
### Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ How do you learn best: by reading, listening, or working with your hands?
- ★ What can you do when working with a partner isn't going well?
- ★ Do you know anyone with dyslexia? What is your favorite thing about them?

### Start a conversation after the show:

- ★ Eddie and Vinnie are best friends. What qualities do you look for in a friend?
- ★ Why do you think Pen's plan to help Eddie makes things worse?
- ★ Have you ever felt overwhelmed at school, like Pen does in the play? What did you do?
- ★ What is something you love about yourself?

# Discover It!



## What is Dyslexia?

- Dyslexia is an unexpected difficulty in reading that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. People with dyslexia are often slow readers but very fast, creative thinkers.
- Dyslexic people use only the right side of the brain to process language, while non-dyslexic people use three areas on the left side.

## Did you know?

- 1 in 5 people have dyslexia!
- The brain differences that make reading hard for people with dyslexia also give them some unique strengths! Dyslexic brains are great at making connections and looking at the big picture, and people with dyslexia often display increased empathy and spatial awareness.

## Famous People with Dyslexia

- Athletes like Muhammad Ali and Magic Johnson
- Scientists like Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein
- Actors like Tom Holland and Octavia Spencer
- Business leaders like Steve Jobs and Richard Branson
- Artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Pablo Picasso
- Writers like Patricia Polacco and Avi



## Who was MC Escher?

- Maurits Cornelis Escher was a Dutch graphic artist who made mathematically-inspired artwork.
- He is known for book illustration, tapestry design, murals, and print-making.
- Escher's art is popular for depicting scenes that defy logic.

## Escher Tessellations

- Escher was curious about how shapes could fit together perfectly, like pieces in a puzzle. Using tessellations, he drew pictures with shapes that work together in cool and tricky ways.



# Create It!



## Make Your Own Tessellation

Eddie and Pen are learning about the art of MC Escher. You can explore it yourself by making your own original tessellation!

- You will need:
- ★ a square piece of cardstock
  - ★ scissors
  - ★ tape
  - ★ a blank piece of paper
  - ★ coloring tools (like crayons)

1

First Shape: Draw a fun shape on the bottom edge of your square poster board, then carefully cut it out.

2

Take the shape you cut out and move it to the top edge of the square. Tape it in place.

3

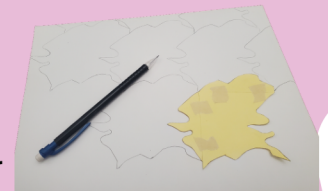
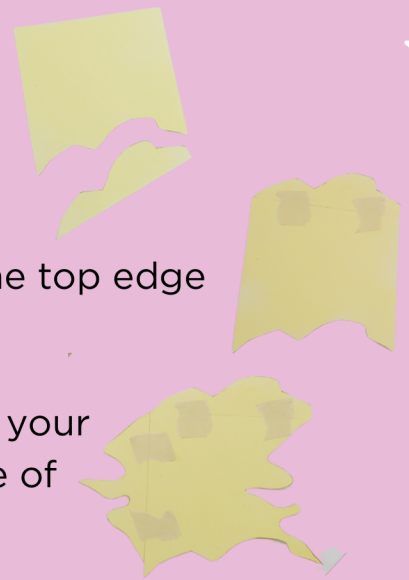
Draw another fun shape on the right edge of your square and cut it out. Move it to the left edge of the square and tape it in place.

4

Place your completed shape on a blank piece of paper and trace around it. Move it over to fit next to the shape you just traced, like puzzle pieces fitting together, and trace again. Keep moving your stencil and tracing it until your paper is full!

5

Color in your shapes any way you like. You can make patterns, make each one different, or turn them into animals!



# Create It!



## Gecko Page Corner Bookmarks

You may not have a gecko for a best buddy, but you can have a gecko as a book buddy!

- You will need:
- ★ cardstock or construction paper
  - ★ scissors
  - ★ ruler
  - ★ mechanical pencil
  - ★ glue stick



1 Print and cut out the template on the next page

2 Trace and cut out your gecko parts. You can use the colors we used in this sample photo, or you can mix it up!

3 Use your ruler and mechanical pencil (with the lead pushed in) to score the dotted lines on the body and fold on the indentations you made.

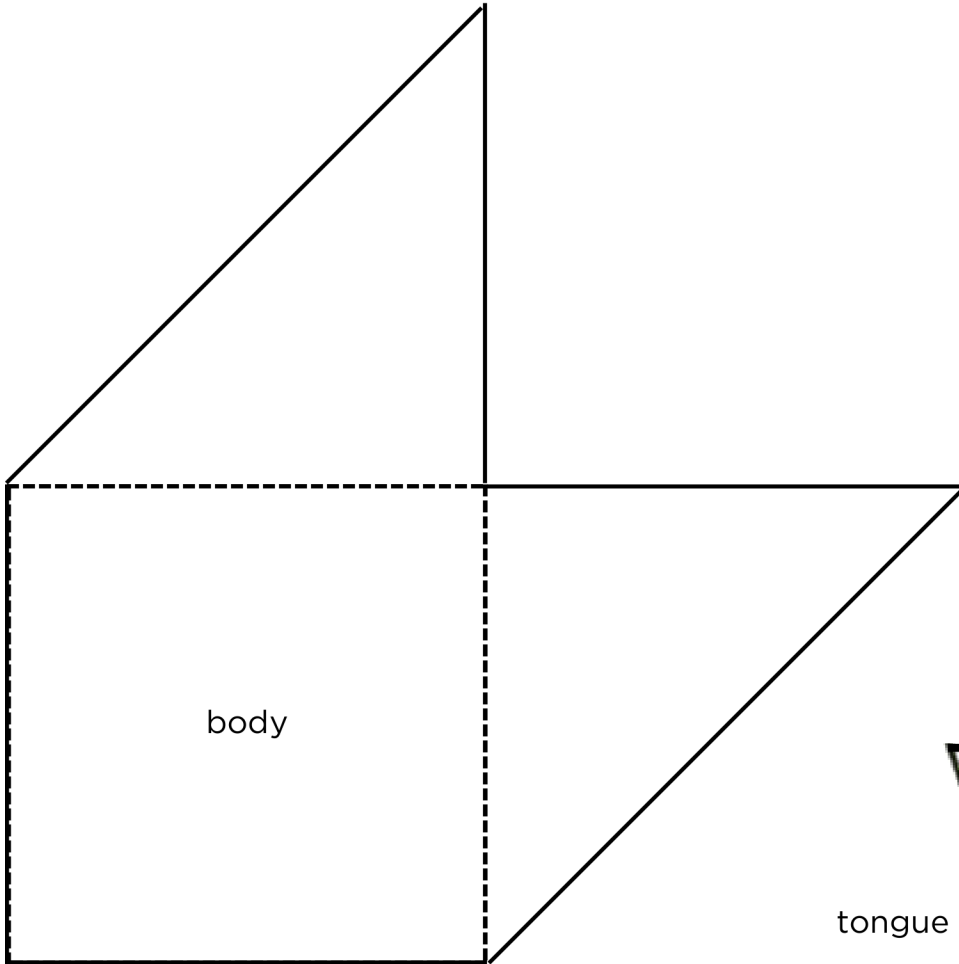
4 Fold one of the triangles in and glue your tongue to the top of it. Then fold the other triangle on top and glue it in place so the tongue is between the two triangles. You can also add a "fancy" body and head by tracing the inserts from the template and gluing them in the center of the body and head. We've provided a sample photo of that too.

5 Glue your eyes into place - large circle, small circle, then the slit - and you and your buddy are ready to read!

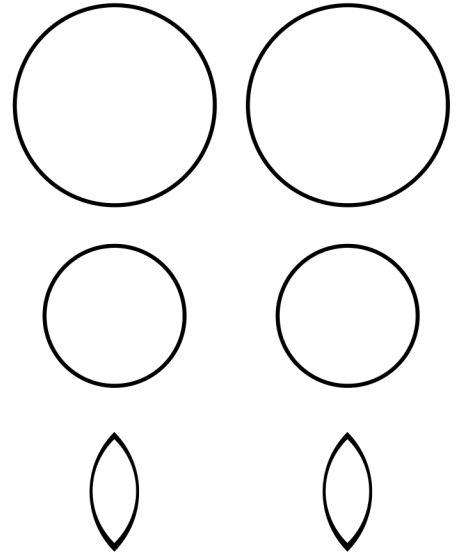


# Page Corner Gecko Bookmark

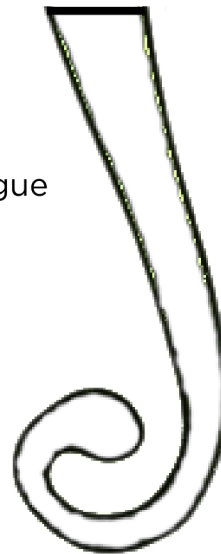
Adapted from "Page Corner Monster Bookmark template" created by Natalia Heilke, found at <https://tallystreasury.com/patterns/>



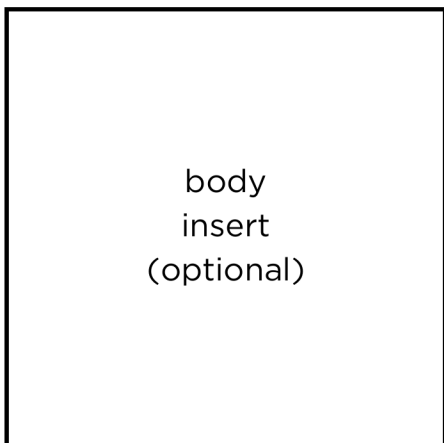
eyes



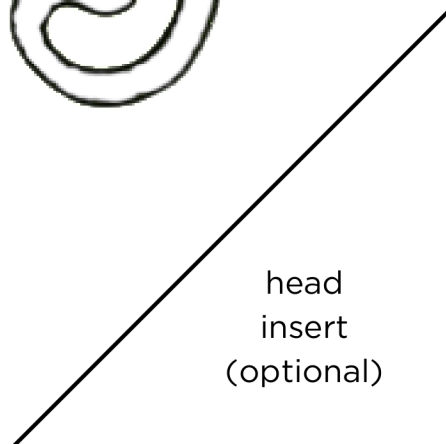
tongue



body  
insert  
(optional)



head  
insert  
(optional)





# Imagine It!



## Word Tennis

Eddie and Vinnie love playing with words. You can play too with this fast-paced game of word tennis!

1

Split students into two lines that face one another. The two students at the front of each line start the first round! They can play rock-paper-scissors to decide who will “serve” (go first).

2

Announce a category for the round e.g., “Words that rhyme with ‘cat.’” The student who serves says a word that fits in that category e.g. ‘hat,’ while pantomiming a tennis racquet motion, then goes to the back of their line. The other student volleys by saying another word in the category e.g., ‘bat,’ and goes to the back of their own line.

3

The tennis rally continues as the next student in each line steps forward, volleys their word, and goes to the back of the line.

4

If a player says a word that has already been said, or does not answer within 3-5 seconds - the “referee” (facilitator) can be the judge of that - the round is over and a point is awarded to the team that came up with the final word.

5

The first team to score five points wins the game!

### More Possible Categories:

- Fruit or vegetables
- Furniture
- Superheroes
- Capital cities, states, and/or countries
- Animals (mammals, fish, reptiles, insects, etc.)
- Brand names (clothes, cereal, cleaning products, etc.)

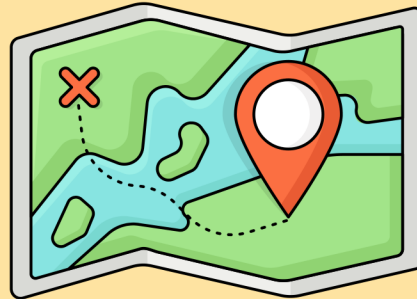


# Share It!



## Asset Mapping

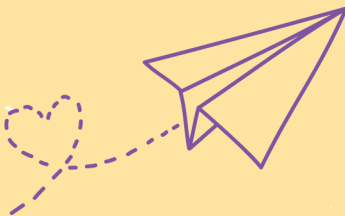
We all have our own unique strengths. Connect with yours by filling out the asset map on the next page. You can write OR draw your response in the available space, so express yourself in whatever way works best for you!



## Expand it!

Use your asset maps to play One-Minute Expert together as a class. Here's how it goes:

- Choose a volunteer to pick one of the strengths from their map - from any category
- Set a timer for one minute
- The volunteer has one minute to tell the rest of the class all about the thing they chose. They might teach the class how to do that thing, or talk about why they love it, or just list things about it. As long as they are talking until the timer goes off, they can say whatever they want about their topic (as long as it's school-appropriate, of course)
- Optional: after the expert is finished speaking, take two or three questions from the audience
- Choose a new volunteer and start over again!



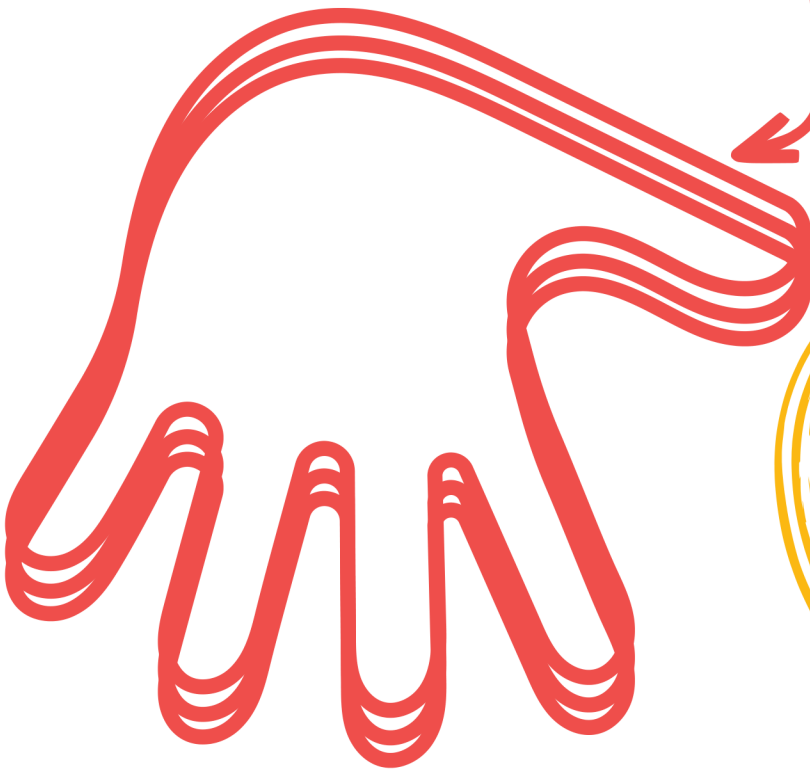
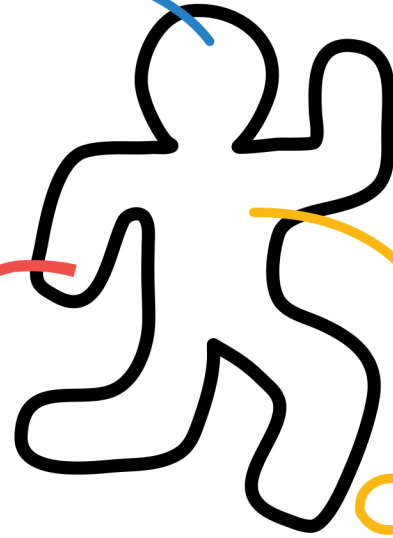
## Personal Asset Map

We all have our own unique strengths.  
What are your assets?  
Write or draw your responses in the  
spaces provided.



Head

What do I know a lot about?  
What am I an expert in?



Hands

What skills do I have?  
What skills am I working on?

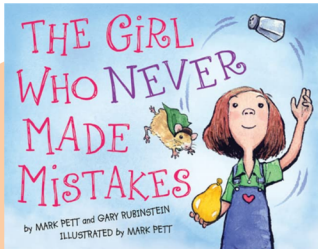


Heart

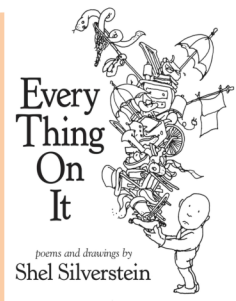
What motivates me?  
What am I passionate about?

# Read About It!

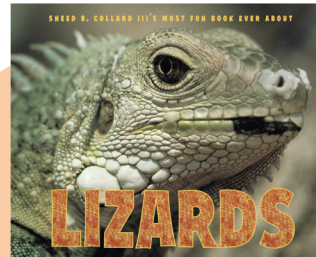
Keep the conversation going! Check out this list of books connected to the ideas and themes in 'Eddie & Vinnie'!



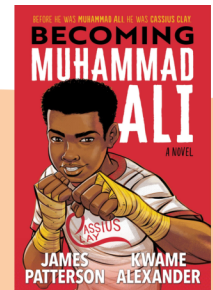
**The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes**  
By Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein  
Ages 4-8



**Every Thing On It**  
By Shel Silverstein  
Ages 5-10



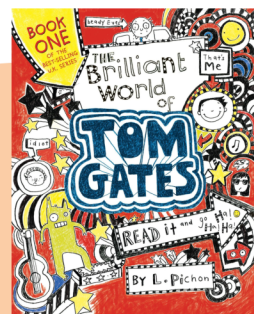
**Lizards**  
By Sneed B. Collard III  
Ages 9-12



**Becoming Muhammad Ali**  
By James Patterson & Kwame Alexander  
Ages 9-11



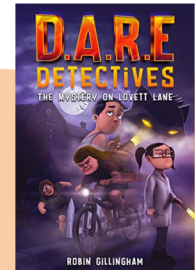
**Ultimate Reptileopedia**  
By Christina Wilsdon  
Ages 5-8



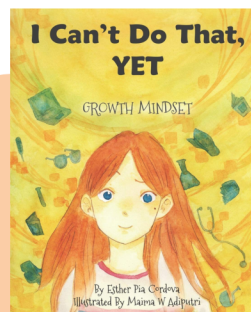
**The Brilliant World of Tom Gates**  
By L. Pichon  
Ages 8-12



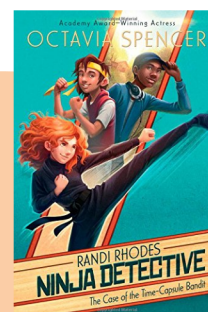
**Tom's Special Talent**  
By Kate Gaynor  
Ages 4-8



**D.A.R.E. Detectives: The Mystery on Lovett Lane**  
By Robin Gillingham  
Ages 8-12



**I Can't Do That, YET**  
By Esther Pia Cordova  
Ages 6-10



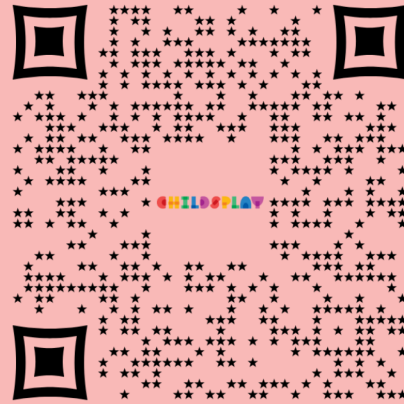
**Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective**  
By Octavia Spencer  
Ages 8-12



# Extend It!

The play is just the beginning - there's always more to learn. Scan the QR code to dig deeper into what interests you!

- ★ Learn about artificial gecko skin!
- ★ Explore MC Escher's art!
- ★ Discover more about dyslexia!



## Extend the Experience!

Bring a professional Teaching Artist to your classroom to lead an arts-based, standards-driven lesson connected to the play.

Email us at:

[CPEducation@childsplayaz.org](mailto:CPEducation@childsplayaz.org)

## #SHAREWITHUS

Follow us on social media and share your comments and photos!

[#ChildsplayAZ](#)  
[#EddieAndVinnie](#)

## About Childsplay

Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company of adult actors who perform for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

For more information:  
[www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)

