



# Reptiles

*This week, your child will learn about the characteristics of reptiles.*

## Word of the Week

reptile

*A reptile is a cold-blooded animal that lays eggs and has scales or a shell covering its body.*

Use the Word of the Week at home.

You might ask: What reptile would you like to be?  
Why?

## More Words to Know

backbone  
divide  
half  
lizard  
scales  
shell  
slither  
turtle

## Lizards in the Garden

Take your child out to the flowerbed or garden to conduct a lizard search. Think about where the lizards might hide and where you could spot them. Your child may be able to see the scales and perhaps the spine. Count the ones you find. It is likely you will see several.

## Clay Turtles

Provide clay or play dough. Sit with your child and create a pair of turtles. As you roll and shape the clay, talk about the different characteristics. *I am making the shell. It is hard. It covers the body of the turtle. Next, I'll make a head. It sticks out of the front. How many legs should I make? Does a turtle have a tail?* Compare your turtles when they are complete. Which turtle is larger? How are they alike?

## Divide It in Half

Practice dividing a set of familiar objects in half with your child. You might do this at snack time with small crackers or grapes. You might do this with blocks or Legos. Give your child a set of six, eight, or ten objects. Challenge your child to divide the set in half. Dividing in half means divide equally into two groups. If necessary, show your child the "one for you and one for me" method.

## Slither Like a Snake

Some reptiles walk about on their legs and others slither or crawl. Invite your child to imitate the way that different reptiles move. Try many different movements. Ask: *Which way do you think is fastest?*

**Coming Next Week: We will learn about animals that live in the sea.**