On a cool autumn day, Big Bird is busy greeting his Sesame Street friends when real estate agent, special guest Freddy Flapman, approaches him about migrating to a new habitat. Freddy Flapman explains to Big Bird that a habitat is a home: a place where animals can find food, water, and a safe place to sleep. Flapman also tells Big Bird that birds migrate, or move to a new home when food runs out or the weather changes. With the weather turning cooler at Sesame Street, Big Bird is persuaded to migrate to a warm and colorful rain forest. But, as Big Bird says good-bye to his Sesame Street friends, he realizes that he will miss being with everybody every day. Big Bird decides that Sesame Street is his habitat, and home is where he’ll stay! All the friends at Sesame Street celebrate Big Bird’s decision to stay.

Make-Believe Habitat
Pretend play nurtures creativity and builds autonomy. Ask your child what his favorite stuffed animal needs for “its habitat, its home.” With your child, make a pretend habitat for the stuffed animal, asking questions such as, “What will your stuffed animal need for its habitat, to eat, sleep, and feel safe?” Encourage your child to create a unique habitat for his stuffed animal.

Mareiposa Migration
Help your child discover that animals are living things with needs. Some animals, such as mariposas (Spanish for butterflies), migrate, or move away, in search of warm weather and food, then return again. Link your thumbs and flutter your fingers to make a mariposa with your hands! Pretend that your mariposa migrates for things it needs to live, such as warmth and food.

Environmental Explorers!
Foster fun experiences in nature! Search for “critter clues” with your child. Even if you don’t find any animals or insects, help your child search for clues to where they have been. Look up at trees for birds’ nests; down on the ground for animal tracks. Search for insects under rocks and logs or on the sidewalk. Track your findings in a notebook.

Adaptable Animals
Help your child investigate how to classify animals into two basic categories: (1) animals that fly in the sky, and (2) animals that swim in the water. Explain to your child, “Many animals that fly and swim migrate, or travel in search of warm weather and food. Look at pictures of animals in old magazines or newspapers and sort them according to “fly” and “swim”. How are the animals different? Now try sorting them by color or size!

Birds-n-Books
Instill a sense of wonderment about nature and help build critical thinking skills through reading. Visit your local library for the picture book Birds by Kevin Henkes (ages 2-5). Look at the bright, colorful illustrations and read the text to your child. Think about the birds in a practical, yet whimsical way. Explore the pages and let your imaginations soar!
Swim or Soar?

Some creatures, such as birds and butterflies, fly in the sky. Other animals, such as fish and seahorses, swim in the water. Color the swimming and flying creatures. Can you show Elmo and his Daddy an animal that can fly and swim? 

What are some other creatures that fly or swim? Draw them on the other side of this paper.