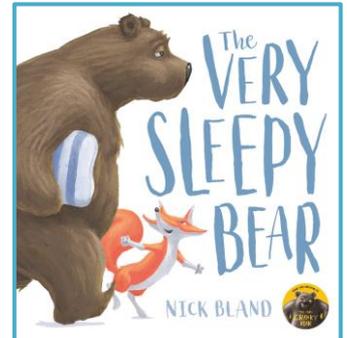




## The Very Sleepy Bear

by **Nick Bland**

Winter has come early on Jingle Jangle Mountain. It's time to hibernate and Bear is in a big hurry! He needs to find somewhere warm and safe for the winter. But sly Fox is after Bear's cave for himself and his friends - can Fox convince Bear give up his cozy cave? Fast talking Fox takes Bear on a whirlwind tour to find a new and bigger home, but will Bear be convinced?



Nick Bland blends humour and wit in his rhyming text, and his wonderful illustrations are fun and friendly. This is a delightful story that will be enjoyed by all.

### Key Message for Parents | Children Learn Language by Listening To It And Using It

Sharing stories, singing songs and talking with your child are perfect activities to help develop strong literacy skills. Parents can help to support their child's language development by:

- Sharing books and stories regularly. Make reading part of your everyday routine
- Choose books that are age appropriate, fun to share and which are of interest or relevance to your child.
- Choosing stories with rhythm and rhyme can be fun to read aloud. Encourage parents to follow their child's lead
- Chat with your child while reading. Today's story The Very Sleepy Bear by Nick Bland is ideal for encouraging children to think and predict what might happen in the story
- Talking, sharing, discussing, and observing together. Whether you are out and about or at home there is always something to talk about and discover!

### Learning Outcomes | Outcome 3: Children Are Connected and Contribute to Their World

Educators and facilitators can help foster connectedness by:

- Making sure that both during and after story time, we allow time for discussion and reflection
- Providing activities which allow for participation and engagement and that are age appropriate
- Modelling excellent listening and language skills at group/story time
- Promoting cultural diversity through a story time program which is inclusive and relevant
- Pose enquiry questions that challenge thinking and learning about the world

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

[thelittlebigbookclub.com.au](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au)     



### Themes within this story

- Humour
- Rhyming Stories
- Bed Time

### Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

### Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

### Good Morning

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning everybody*

*and welcome to you!*



### Song

#### Big Bear

(Sung to the tune of *Teddy bear, Teddy bear*)

*Big Bear, big bear turn around*

*Big bear, big bear touch the ground*

*Big bear, big bear reach up high*

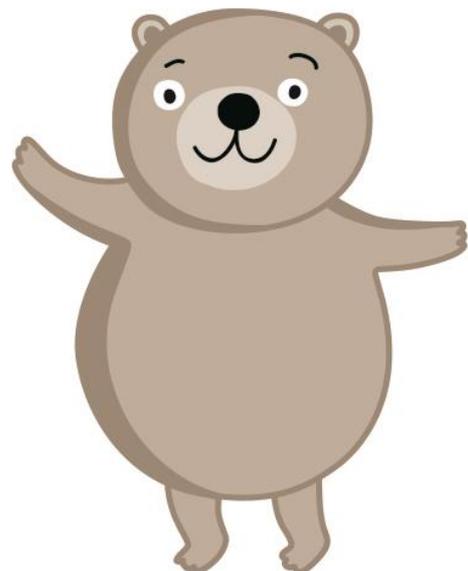
*Big bear, big bear touch the sky*

*Big bear, find your nose*

*Big bear big touch your toes*

*Big bear, big bear touch your knees*

*Big bear big bear sit down please!*





### Before Reading

Today's story is called ***The Very Sleepy Bear*** and it is written and illustrated by Nick Bland. Now this bear is not just sleepy he is VERY sleepy! Who feels sleepy today? What do we do when we feel sleepy? We yawn! Let's all have a big yawn! Wow, you guys are very sleepy today!

The bear in the story is very sleepy too because he is preparing to hibernate. Does anyone know what that means? It means he will sleep for a very, very long time...I wonder where he will sleep?

Let's find out! Is everyone ready to listen? Hands in laps and eyes this way! Let's read ***The Very Sleepy Bear*** by Nick Bland. (As you read the title and authors name point out the text on the front cover)

### During Reading

The first double spread presents us with some important visual clues - who is hiding behind the tree? And what does the picture tell us about what time of year it is? This is significant because bears (as well as other animals) hibernate in the winter.

As the story develops, Fox offers Bear many alternatives to his cave to hibernate. Ask the children if they think each of Fox's proposals are good or not, and why?

Can the children predict what will happen in each new 'cave'? There is a clue in Nick Bland's rhyming text so pause before you turn the page and the answer is revealed. As each place presents a new danger or potential disaster, the font is large and exaggerated – use plenty of expression to add to the drama and bring the story to life.

### After Reading

Have a group discussion, chatting and exploring:

- What makes a good hibernation place? Get children to discuss and list.
- Who can remember the places Fox showed Bear? List them on a big piece of paper (a train tunnel, a cave by the beach, a tree hollow). What was wrong with these places? What happened in each one?
- What are some other animals that hibernate? Where do they hibernate and for how long?

### Activity Time

#### A Delightful Den!

Children can create an ideal den for hibernation. Think back over our story and consider what makes an ideal place to hibernate? Use the materials to create somewhere warm and protected! Have some small pictures of bears to stick in the den when finished.

#### What you need

- Paper cups with an arc cut out
- Scissors
- Glue sticks, masking tape
- Cardboard base to stick the cup on
- Feathers, straw, wool, material scraps
- Crayons, textas
- Animal images – perhaps a bear or a fox.





### What to do:

1. Turn the cup upside down and attach to the cardboard base (it may be easier to have these pre-stuck down using a glue gun if you have one)
2. Invite children to think about what the environment might be like outside of the den or cave (leaves, stones, or a path?)
3. Use crayons or textas to draw. Glue various materials to create a soft and warm interior. Add the animal when finished

### Extension Activities:

- Read and sing “We’re Going On A Bear Hunt” by Michael Rosen
- Create a giant cave in the corner of the library/playgroup/Kindy site from large blankets and sheets
- Provide some cushions, pillows or blankets and play a ‘going to sleep’ game. Children can pretend to be asleep until someone calls out “wake up!”

### Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area.

- ***The Very Cranky Bear*** by Nick Bland
- ***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*** by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
- ***No Bears*** by Meg Mckinlay and Lelia Rudge
- ***The Snow Wombat*** by Susannah Chambers and Mark Jackson

### Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child’s name in the place of ‘you’ as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

### Goodbye

*This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)*

*Say goodbye, say goodbye*

*This is the way we say goodbye*

*To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!*

