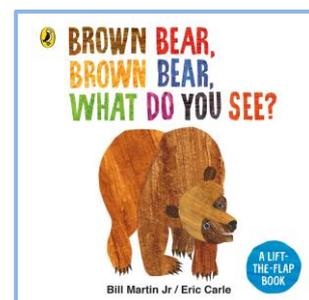




Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? **By Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle**

Fifty years ago (published in 1967) Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle created a book with brightly coloured artwork, favourite animals and a rhythmic story that is designed to help toddlers associate colours and meanings to objects.



Key Message for Parents | The first five years matter, and last a lifetime

Parents and professionals play a critical role in ensuring that all children get the best possible start in life. Positive early experiences help the connections in the brain that make learning possible, multiply and become stronger. Young children need positive relationships, rich learning opportunities and safe environments in order to develop to their full potential.

As educators we can support parents' understanding of these crucial first years. Some ideas to share with parents are:

- Repeating positive experiences (like cuddling your baby and reading, singing and talking to them) strengthens the connections in the brain.
- Babies love to explore with their highly tuned senses. Not only is sensory play critical for their developing brains, but it can be deeply rewarding for you to watch quietly as your baby discovers new textures, learns about cause and effect, and figures out what makes the world go round.
- Books, songs, rhymes and conversations introduce children to new words in meaningful ways.
- Handling books and singing action songs helps young children develop coordination in their fingers and hands.

Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 1: Children have a Strong Sense of Identity

As educators we can help young children feel safe, secure and supported by:

- Providing play activities which foster curiosity and engagement
- Spending time interacting and conversing with each child
- Giving praise and recognizing all achievements, big and small.

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @ thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies. 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.

Welcome song - Come Along

Come along and sing with me, sing with me

Come along and sing with me, it's time for story time

Repeat and replace 'sing' with bounce, rock, clap etc.

Come along and bounce with me, bounce with me, bounce with me

Come along and bounce with me, it's time for story time

Songs

Teddy bear, Teddy bear

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, turn around

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch the ground

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, jump up high

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch the sky

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, bend down low

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, touch your toes

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, turn out the light

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, say goodnight!

Action Tip:

Have a soft toy Teddy Bear to role model the actions while singing the song together.

Encourage parents to sing facing their baby so that baby can watch their mouth move as they sing and talk – this helps babies learn to speak themselves.



Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden,

Like a teddy bear,

One step, two steps,

Tickley under there!



Before Reading

Have props ready for parents/carers

- Selection of material or scarves in a range of colours. (brown, red, yellow, blue, green, purple, white, black and gold).
- A range of plastic toy animals that are in the book - bear, bird, duck, frog, horse, cat, dog, sheep and /or fish.

Hide a toy under the coloured material or scarf. Have parents sit on the floor and hold their baby in their lap. Sing song below and at the end lift up the material to reveal the hiding surprise.

What is hiding in my scarf?

What is hiding in my scarf?

What is hiding in my scarf?

What could it be? What could it be?

What is hiding in my scarf?

Encourage the carers to talk about / play with the items with their baby and then share with someone else, playing hide and seek again with a different item. This can go on for as long as the interest is there.

During Reading

Have enough copies of the book for each person. You could have a doll or teddy yourself to model the way you would like them to look at the book together, showing them the illustrations and gently pointing to them as you talk about the animals and colours on each page and lifting the flap with a flourish to discover what's hiding. Make suggestions for your families; encourage baby to feel the book, try to open and close the book, turn the pages. Tell them not to worry if baby tries to taste the book! Repeat and repeat while baby is interested.

After Reading

Let parents /carers know that 'Picture books with predictable rhyming text such as Brown Bear, Brown Bear are excellent ways to introduce young children to reading'.

This is a perfect book for older children too. It is a favourite books to engage young readers in choral reading (where you sing the words) as they get older. Regular exposure to books helps young children develop the necessary emergent (early / first) literacy skills they will need when they start



Activity time

Colour Ribbon Tunnel

What you need:

- Strips of coloured ribbons (brown, red, yellow, blue, green, purple, white, black and gold)
- A large cardboard box (or more depending on size of group) large enough for babies to crawl through
- Large pieces of material (from earlier activity before reading)

What to do:

You can have materials ready for parents to assemble to have this activity pre-made ready to play after story time.



1. Make holes in the cardboard and thread through and tie the ribbons on.
2. Encourage babies to crawl through the box feeling the experience of ribbons on their faces.
3. Material could be placed on the floor and ribbons could also be matched to the colours by parents and older toddlers.

Extension ideas:

- Soft and shimmery, light and flaky, this Baby-safe Cloud Dough is made with just two ingredients (whole-grain rice cereal and coconut oil) and is safe for babies to get in their hands, hair and even mouths.
 - Pour 1 Cup Rice Cereal into a container
 - Add 3 Tablespoons of Melted Coconut Oil to the rice cereal
 - Mix and let the mixture cool
- A tray of sensory items (e.g. straws, feathers, pipe cleaners, stones – all in bright colours) that babies can look at, touch, move around, etc.
- Fill zip lock bags with water and coloured beads (from Cheap as Chips), seal them up with duct tape, and let babies squish, mush and roll to their heart's content.

NOTE: Remind parents that during all these activities they *must supervise* their baby/child at all times. Including if they make/do these at home.

STEM | Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths

From birth children are inquisitive. You can nurture early science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts and skills through daily routines and play and exploration activities that you provide for the babies and children in your program. By talking, reading, singing, playing, singing, you can help them purposefully develop STEM skills. (e.g. count a baby's toes, describe the changing leaves with children, or talk with a toddler as you play with blocks together.)

The rhythmic text and bold illustrations of Brown Bear, Brown Bear captivates even the youngest readers. Yet, its simplicity allows for so many ways to introduce early math skills such as colour identification, sorting and sequencing just to name a few.



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. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Dear Zoo** by Rod Campbell
- **Peepo** by Janet and Allen Ahlberg
- **Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear?** by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
- **Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes** by Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury

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.....)!

