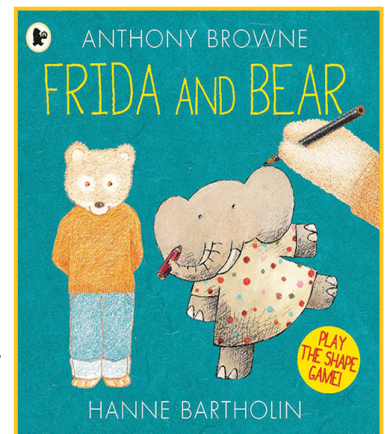


March 2016

Book title: FRIDA AND BEAR

By Anthony Browne and Hanne Bartholin

Join the lovable Frida and Bear as they discover new ways to use shapes to unleash their own unique drawing style. Anthony Browne and Hanne Bartholin have created a wonderfully warm relationship between the two characters, evident through Frida and Bear's shared discovery of odd shapes and real objects that form part of their newfound drawing style. The story is both textural and interactive, as Frida and Bear learn that that simple, even silly, shapes and objects can become part of something that is very beautiful.



Key Message for Parents

Children Learn From Watching And Copying

Toddlers are greatly influenced by what they observe and by association what they imitate.

Imitation begins from birth with simple facial movements and smiling, and as children develop they have the ability to observe storytelling, song and games. As a result learning can then occur through observation rather than being told what to do.

For a toddler, observing and imitating becomes an integral part of social learning, more specifically empathy; the ability to understand and experience what others feel. A child that displays a strong sense of empathy is a child that will go on to develop positive and successful human relationships.

Parents can support this mode of learning by:

- Sharing songs and dance that require hand/body movements, actions and associated rhyme
- Repeating much loved stories! Repetition is an important part of language development and is a great way for children to listen and copy what is read to them
- Reinforcing how they want their child to learn. How you sing a song, read a book or play a game is modelling for a child how and what you would like them to learn. The more positive the experience (uplifting tone, expressive voice/facial features, joy in play) the more children mirror positive behaviours, resulting in the development of a deeper social learning.

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

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au





Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Identity

A toddler's identity evolves by continuous exposure to positive experiences, where they develop an understanding of themselves (as important and valued) and in turn feel a sense of belonging.

A toddler's identity can be shaped by the following:

- Create a learning environment that encourages self-expression in a group setting. In a group of peers, children learn that their voice matters and sits amongst a wider community of opinions and beliefs
- As facilitators and educators it is important to model positive ways of communication to support toddlers to initiate social contact with each other. This will open the door to positive play and social experiences, which ultimately builds productive relationships
- Display encouragement and belief in a toddler's learning attempts. If a child feels that someone they trust believes in their efforts, then their sense of identity is shaped from a place of strength and resilience.

Themes of this story include:

- Art
- Bears
- Friends

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their babies.

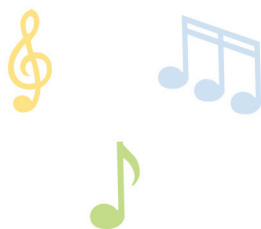
Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

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.

Good Morning

*Good morning to you
Good morning to you
Good morning everybody
And welcome to you!*





Song

This is a square. (To the tune of: 'Frere Jacques')

This is a square. This is a square.

(hold up paper or cardboard shape)

How can you tell? How can you tell?

It has four sides,

(trace finger around the shape)

All the same size.

It's a square. It's a square.

This is a circle. This is circle.

(hold up paper or cardboard shape)

How can you tell? How can you tell?

It goes round and round,

(trace finger around the shape)

No end can be found.

It's a circle. It's a circle.

This is a triangle. This is a triangle.

(hold up paper or cardboard shape)

How can you tell? How can you tell?

It only has three sides,

(trace finger around the shape)

That join to make three points.

It's a triangle. It's a triangle.

This is a rectangle. This is a rectangle.

(hold up paper or cardboard shape)

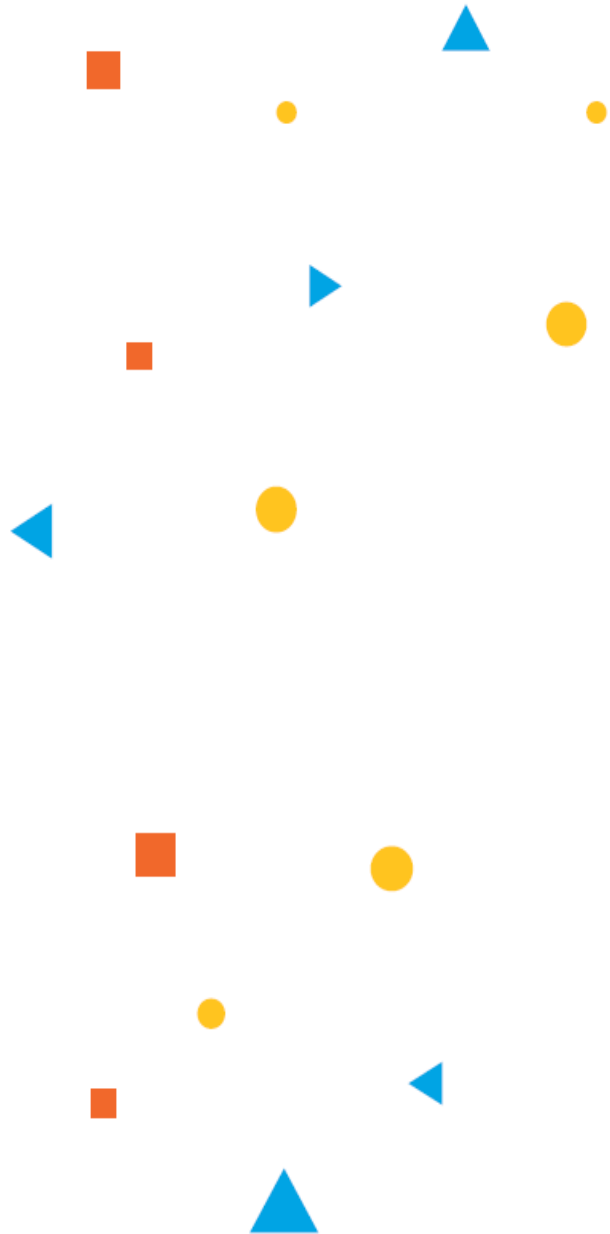
How can you tell? How can you tell?

It has two short sides,

And it has two long sides.

(trace finger around the shape)

It's a rectangle. It's a rectangle.





Before Reading

Tell me, who here today loves to draw? Who finds drawing sometimes a little scary or hard? Today's story is about two friends Frida and Bear who both love to draw but sometimes get a little stuck.

Take some time to explore the front cover. Who and what is Frida? How does she draw? When you are ready, point to the title as you read aloud. Frida and Bear, this story is written (and the pictures are drawn) by Anthony Browne and Hanne Bartholin, let's discover it together.

During Reading

Anthony Browne and Hanne Bartholin have created a story that is sweet, fun and feels like a hand drawn copy with soft, beautifully warm illustrations. Explore that emotion on each page. What colours are used? Does it look like pencil or crayon? How are Frida and Bear drawing, with their paws or their trunks?

The voice of each character is different, so have fun exploring the confidence or the reluctance evident from each. Explain what kind of drawing materials and paper feature on each page and ask the children questions. What do they think the shapes might become? Why does one particular shape lend itself to an animal or object?

On the very last page there is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the story through examples of Frida and Bear's work. Do the children see what you as an adult may see?

After Reading

Ask the children what they enjoyed about the book. Do you think Frida and Bear enjoyed drawing in the end? Why? Toddlers will have been sitting for a while so this is a good opportunity to burn off some energy and sing some songs that feature shapes.

Try singing one or two of the following songs that will involve lots of moving, actions and importantly shapes:

1. Heads and shoulders, knees and toes! Outline facial features such as round eyes, triangle nose, oval ears and a crescent shaped mouth
2. The wheels on the bus! Outline bus parts such as round wheels, square windows and lines for swishing wipers, rectangle doors that go 'open and shut'
3. I'm a little teapot! A curved moon shaped handle and an 'S' shaped spout.





Activity time

Do You See What I See?

What you will need

- Milk cartons (empty and clean)
- Cans of food
- Empty cardboard boxes of different sizes and shapes
- Assorted cushions
- Instruments
- Fruit (plastic or fresh)
- Any assorted items you have that are fun and safe

****Note: avoid small items that may be a choking hazard and supervise children at all times.**

What to do:

1. Sit the toddlers in a circle and ask them what shapes they can see, using one everyday item at a time
2. What do these shapes remind them of? What colours can they see?

Tip: You may wish to add a few items together to help children see what can be created. For example a few empty boxes in different shapes might become a robot!

Extension Ideas

A fun way to extend the play session might be to group the shapes into sections. You could use the shapes you made for the opening song to group the shapes on the floor. Sorting objects by shapes is a great way for toddlers to watch, copy and learn.

Drawing with Shapes

What you will need

- Large A3 white card
- A shape template (see end of activity time) photocopied on to colour or white paper
- Assorted craft and natural materials (sticks, pipe cleaners, craft feathers, pom poms, patty pans, plastic lids, sea shells)
- crayons and markers
- Scissors
- Glue

What to do:

1. Roughly cut out the shape template in to more manageable sections.
2. Encourage the children to cut out their chosen shape and stick on to the card.
3. Ask the children to extend the shape with their own drawing, just like Frida and Bear!
4. Encourage them to use colour (pencils and markers) and the bright materials such as feathers and pom poms to add more character to their drawing.



Tips:

- Children may wish to use the assorted materials as their starting shape and this is a wonderful beginning point too.
- Remember to always encourage creative expression in toddlers. There is no wrong drawing. Use encouraging phrases and questions to build confidence:

I think what you are creating is wonderful!

Tell me what you can see when you look at this shape?

What do you like to play with at home? Maybe you'd like to draw a picture of that?

If parents are at your session, get them involved by doing a drawing too, it serves as a model, a 'how to' for children.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of relevant books that parents might want to borrow. The Little Big Book Club recommends the following books to support learning in this area -

- **Press Here** by Hervé Tullet
- **Hunting for Dragons** by Bruce Whatley
- **Duckies Rainbow** by Frances Barry

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.....)!

