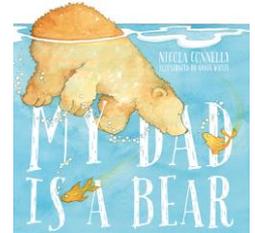


My Dad is a Bear by Nicola Connelly & Annie White

Theme: Dads and books to share

September 2014

Charlie's dad is tall, round and soft. Sometimes he grows. Could he be a bear? There is something really special that bears can do, and you can find out what it is when you read the story!



Key Message for Parents: The Best Learning Happens in Nurturing Relationships

We can provide opportunities for learning to happen through nurturing relationships when we:

- Positively interact with young children and provide them with emotional support
- Value the importance of babies' first attachments within their families
- Share books that promote positive relationships

Learning Outcomes: Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

We can help young children to develop a strong sense of wellbeing by:

- Ensuring that children feel happy, safe and connected to others
- Sharing enjoyable experiences with children such as reading together
- Encouraging the participation of all members of the family in children's experiences

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.

Sing 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.

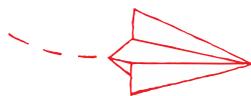
Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

And welcome to you!



Teddy Bear Teddy Bear

*Teddy bear, teddy bear turn around
Teddy bear, teddy bear touch the ground
Teddy bear, teddy bear touch your nose
Teddy bear, teddy bear dance on your toes
Teddy bear, teddy bear touch your head
Teddy bear, teddy bear go to bed
Teddy bear, teddy bear wake up now
Teddy bear, teddy bear take your bow*

Before Reading

If you have a soft toy bear you can show it to the children. You could talk about your bear and name its parts and point to them: my bear has a nose, and two eyes, and two ears and a mouth. My bear has a soft furry body and big paws. My bear has a round tummy. I like to cuddle my bear and he goes to sleep with me at night. You could ask the children if they have a toy bear and ask them to tell you about their bear.

Before you start reading, look at the end page at the beginning of the book. There is a bird and some bees. The next page has the title and the bear, and the next page has a red ribbon, the bird and the rabbit. These are all the characters from the story, so it is good to identify and name each one before you start.

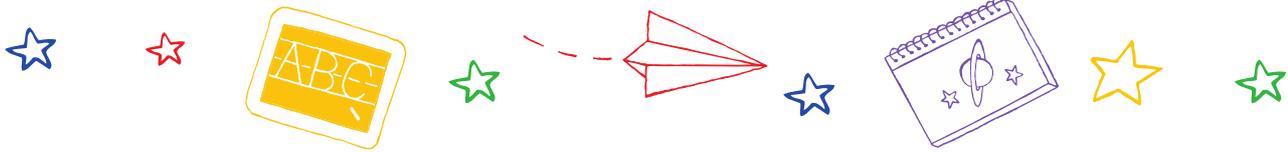
During Reading

While you are reading this story, you could have your teddy on your lap. Where there are pages with actions about your bear, you can point out for example his big paws, and you can scratch his back. If you are reading with children in a setting where this is appropriate, you can talk about bear hugs and give your teddy bear a hug. Or if you are doing a community storytime you can provide an opportunity for children and their families to give a bear hug.

After Reading

After reading the story, you can be bears together.

Can you be tall and round like a bear?
Can you climb like a bear?
Can you show me your bear paws?
Can you scratch your back like a bear?
Can you growl like a bear?
Can you sleep like a bear?
Can you give a hug like a bear?



Teddy Bear rhyme to sing with your family

*Round and round the garden
Like a teddy bear
One step, Two steps
Tickle under there*

*Round and round the garden
Now it's time to share
One step, Two steps
Time to hug your bear!*

Activity Time

Make some teddy toast!

What you will need:

- A piece of toast, or a muffin or a rice cake
- Something to spread on the toast: butter, vegemite, peanut butter
- Banana, sultanas or your favourite fruit.

What to do:

1. Put your toast, muffin or rice cake on a plate.
2. Choose what you will spread on it and talk about it with your child
3. Make a bear face on top of the spread: two eyes, a nose, a mouth, some ears.
4. Eat your teddy bear toast!



Extension Activities

Have a teddy bear's picnic

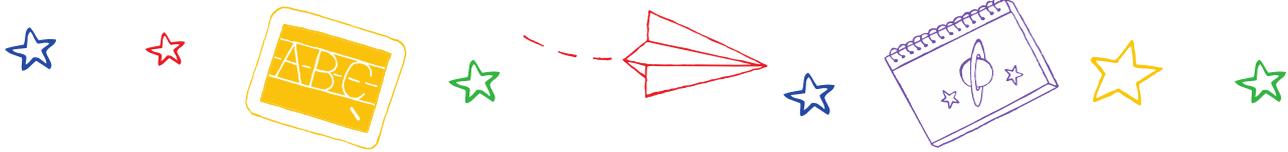
Take your teddy to your favourite place outside, it could be a park or a playground, or your back yard, or the beach.

Take some snacks with you, or your lunch

Take a blanket to sit on

Take a book to read together about bears

Take a photo of you and your bear having a picnic!



Make a teddy bear face or mask

What you will need:

- A paper plate
- A patty pan
- Something to draw with
- A popstick and sticky tape for the mask

What to do:

1. Draw some eyes on the plate
2. Make a nose with the patty pan and draw a mouth on it
3. Attach a popstick to the base with sticky tape to make a bear mask!



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 -

- *Time for Bed* by Petr Horacek
- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury - board book
- *Bizzy Bear Pirate Adventure* by Benji Davies

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.....)!*