

Let's Share: The Bear Books



Author Karma Wilson has teamed up with **artist Jane Chapman** to produce a series of books featuring Bear and his close friends in charming tales of friendship, perseverance, loyalty, and generosity. The rollicking, rhyming text is punctuated with a repeated refrain in each story that invites children to chime in. These books are perfect read-aloud favorites filled with scenes of cuddly creatures that appeal to all ages. The language, with its strong rhythm, rhyme, repetitive structure and rare vocabulary lends itself well to building phonemic awareness. The underlying messages about respecting and valuing others is very positive.

Expand children's understanding of stories

Help children understand the story behind the story. Help them see how stories come together by helping them to understand the basic story structure.

Highlight: **Characters** **Setting** **Problem**
 Actions **Resolution**

- Make "thinking-out-loud" comments before, during and after the book-*"I'm thinking that..."*, *"I'm wondering about..."*, *"I'm trying to understand why..."*
- Ask questions and probe for elaboration of children's comments, questions, responses-Who? What? Where? When? Why? What if?-*"Tell me more."*, *"What do you mean by..."*, *"Why do you think that?"*, *What do you think will happen?"*

When reading the story:

- Sweep your finger under the repeated words or phrases.
- Use an expressive voice.
- Use a louder voice when words are bolded or larger in size, and a quieter voice for small text.
- Point out the rhyming words. With repeated readings, pause and let the child fill in the rhyme.
- Before reading, show some of the pictures to capture interest.

Make print POP!

- Children need us to point out print so they can see that it's important and see how it works.
- Research shows that kids look at the pictures in a book, not the text.
- Make print **POP non-verbally**: point to print, track print; and **verbally**: make a comment, use self-talk, ask a question, make a request.
- Books with interesting print will help kids notice it-smaller, bigger, bolder, wavy, different fonts, direction of print, speech balloons, punctuation marks etc.



These books are filled with active lively animals who like to move, so invite the children to get moving too! Sing, chant, dance, stretch and move before, during and after each story is read aloud. Let's get started...

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around,
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground,
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, reach up high
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, wink one eye,
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, slap your knees,
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, sit down please.



Watch for this new book in the Wilson-Chapman read-aloud Bear series!

Bear rhymes with *chair*.
 What else rhymes with *bear* and *chair*? (provide a **cue**)
 /h/ ...hair or /f/...fair
 Bear rhymes with something you eat...Is it apple or *pear*?



Books in Learning Centres...

De-centralize your classroom library by placing books throughout your play areas. Put an alphabet book in the basket of magnetic letters, a Cheerios counting book at the playdough table, a book about wheels near the cars, a truck book in the back of the dump truck, a food book in the play fridge, a dinosaur book in the basket of dinosaurs... You get the idea! **Try these ideas too:**

Dramatic Play- along with the book *Bear Feels Sick*, add a cot, stethoscope, quilt, teapot and cups and saucers, empty boxes or packets of tea, animal puppets, mirrors, warm clothing etc.

Block and Building Area-along with the book *Bear Feels Scared*, add a blanket to make a cave, flashlight, camping lantern, quilt or perhaps small plastic animals with some felt to make caves using the smaller blocks.

Five Little Bears

One little bear
 Wondering what to **do**
 Along came another
 Then there were **two!**

Two little bears
 Climbing up a **tree**
 Along came another
 Then there were **three!**

Three little bears
 Ate an apple **core**
 Along came another
 Then there were **four!**

Four little bears
 Found honey in a **hive**
 Along came another
 Then there were **five!**

If you enjoyed these books, here are a few more "bear books" worth checking out:



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