

Recite this fun rhyme with your child and make the movements together:



Polar bear, Polar bear,
Turn around,
Polar bear, Polar bear,
Make no sound.

Polar bear, Polar bear,
Dance on your toes,
Polar bear, Polar bear.
Touch your nose.

Polar bear, Polar bear,
Show your paws.
Polar bear, Polar bear,
Hide your claws.

Polar bear, Polar bear,
Reach up high
Polar bear, Polar bear,
Wink one eye.

Polar bear, Polar bear,
Say good-night,
Polar bear, Polar bear,
Shut your eyes tight.

Polar bear, Polar bear,
Wake up now,
Polar bear, Polar bear,
Take a bow.

Play like Polar Bears and other animals in the book:



Take children outside to play in fresh snow. Ask them how they think a polar bear (or other animal) would play in the snow. Invite them to crawl, climb, stomp and roll, fly, slither and more.

Use lots of new action words and help them repeat the words ie. "Can you **stomp** your feet like a big heavy polar bear?"

You are **stomping** with heavy feet! What are you doing? That's right, **stomping**."

Encourage the language of learning by:

*explaining things your child doesn't understand.

-yelping sounds like barking. Does your dog bark?

*using your child's questions to help them make connections.

-You can do a quick confirmation of a child's comments -Yes he is big! or provide a brief answer to a question-Yes the Boa Constrictor is a snake...a very long snake.

*wondering out loud about what might happen next.

-I wonder if there will be a lion in this book? What sound does a lion make?

*extending the topic by going beyond the book and thinking about the story in many different ways.

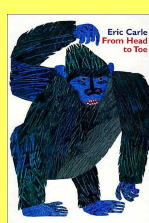
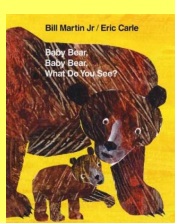
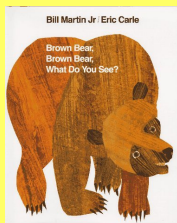
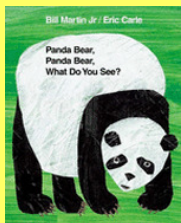
-You can see lions at the zoo or in the jungle. Let's get a map of Africa!



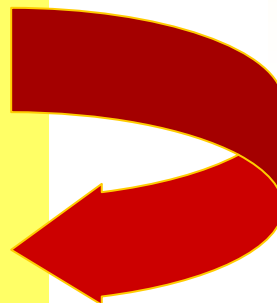
When children have few words:

- Adjust the way you read books.
- Say less-use clear simple language to describe pictures.
- Repeat and exaggerate key words in the story.
- Go slow-read slowly enough that your child has time to process what he's hearing
- Use props!

If you enjoyed this book, look for these other great stories at the Library or Book Store:

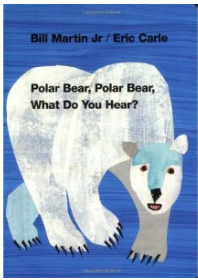


Choose sturdy board books for toddlers so they can easily handle them and turn the pages.



Donna Kaye
Early Literacy Specialist
Hastings-Prince Edward
613-966-9427 x 270

Let's Share: Polar Bear, Polar Bear...



The repetition and colourful illustrations in this book make it a favourite for all children. On each page we meet a new animal that makes great big exciting sounds children love

to mimic. The solid coloured background, repetitive minimal text and single animal picture spread across the two open pages makes this book a good choice for toddlers.

Imitate and Expand!

Children enjoy it when you **imitate** them-it confirms that you're really listening to them and it keeps the conversation going.

When you imitate your child, repeat what she says but always say it correctly. If your child says *yion for lion*, you might say *That's right it is a lion*.

You are a language model for your child.

When your child says something to you, use her words and **expand** by adding some of your own. If she says *frog*, you might say *green frog* or *frog jump*. This helps increase her vocabulary and ability to speak in sentences. Remember to only add one or two words.

When reading the story:

- Sweep your finger under the repeated sentence *What do you hear?* and pause when you read so your child can say *hear*.
- Ask your child to recall what animal comes next.
- Before reading a page ask your child a Wh-question such as *What animal do you see? Or Who is on this page?*
- Touch the animal as you read about him.

Whistling and **bellowing** are words that make noise! Other noisy words in this story are roaring, snorting, fluting, braying, hissing, trumpeting, snarling and yelping.

What do these words mean? Reread the story and ask your child to listen for these noisy words and shout them out when they hear one. Help your child act out noisy words.



Reading with toddlers and young children

- Look for opportunities to actively engage your child-invite them to turn pages, touch animals, label pictures, make sounds and move around.
- Use a slow pace and wait expectantly for your child to point to illustrations, make comments and ask questions-and then follow their leads.
- Help them to relate the book to what they already know.

Language can bring exciting imaginary experiences to life!