



 **bookspring** presents

Teddy Bear Picnic



Goal: Students will actively listen to a story. Students will also participate in an activity that fosters compassion towards others by modeling acts of kindness with the teddy bears.

BookSpring will provide:

Picnic basket and blanket, picnic food
Baxter the BookSpring Bear
Extra teddy bears, song posters

Tape Measure
Teddy bear ears

What to do BEFORE reading the story

- Introduce yourself and tell the children you will be telling them a story by reading a book that they can listen to with their teddy bears on their laps. After the story everybody will join in on an activity with their teddy bears.
- Lay the picnic blanket facing the children, and take out the items from the basket setting them out upon the blanket as you name each item. Explain that at a picnic you must pack foods in containers or jars to carry them to the picnic. The food has to be kept well-sealed and cleaned up or else ants and other insects will get to the food!
- **For Infants:** Wear the bear ears and sing or recite the “You are my Teddy Bear” song (to the rhythm of “You are my Sunshine”) a few times.
- **For Toddlers:** Tell students to hold their teddy bears up then sing the Bear song (to the rhythm of Row, row, your boat) while everyone holds and moves their plush toys through the motions. Tell students that teddy bears can be special friends that we can treat them lovingly like family. Should they throw their teddies around or step on them? No, hug them and show them how caring they can be.
- **For Preschoolers:** (Show students the big teddy bear.) Ask the students to compare the sizes of their teddies to the Bookspring bear. Which one is bigger? Which one is smaller? Talk about the difference between baby bears and grown up bears.

What to do DURING the story

- Share one of the read aloud selections with the children. Encourage their participation in reading the story and ask questions about where the story took place.
- Be sure to show the illustrations and allow the children time to look at the details.

What to do AFTER reading the story

- Ask the children if they had a favorite part or if they learned something new. Explain that a teddy bear picnic can be a fun event to have and you can read at a picnic as well. Tell the children it's the teddy bear's bedtime when it's time to wrap the picnic and have them help with the clean up of the picnic jars and items so as not to leave a mess at the “park.” Ask the children to look after their tired teddies!
- **For Infants:** Together talk about names and how people like giving names to everything. Name and count the teddy bears at the picnic. Then allow each child to choose from 2 or 3 books.
- **For Toddlers:** Show the food cards in the kit and read the names of each item then show a picture of a bear and put the pictures in their stomach.
- **For Preschoolers:** Figure out how long (in feet) the Bookspring bear measures by laying it out flat and counting the inches from it's head to its toes. Write the number of feet and inches for students to see.
- Instruct the children to walk around the tables so that they can see all of the books. When the teacher says to choose a book, they can choose one book they would like to take home and keep as a gift forever. The children will take their books to their teacher, who will write their names in their books.
- After the children have selected their books, volunteers and center teachers should sit down with the children to begin reading the books the children selected for a short period of time (and teddy bears can join reading time with their owners, of course).

Suggested Read-Aloud Books

Infants and Toddlers:

Corduroy's Day or Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed (bilingual)

Familiarize yourself with the stories ahead of time. If you are comfortable using a sing-song voice to read the stories, do so, and ask the children to join in with actions or by reading along.

Discussion Points: (Monkeys) Talk with the children about bedtime routines. For infants, act out the story with them and their caregivers. For toddlers, As you read, ask them if they do the same things as the monkeys do. Feel free to act out the story with a fingerplay as illustrated on the story poster.

(Corduroy) Count along as you read. Point to each item as you count. Name items in the pictures.

Preschoolers: Jamberry (English) or Goldilocks and the Three Bears or Big Brown Bear (bilingual)

Discussion Points: JamBerry: Introduce the book by showing the pictures and telling the children that this books is about a bear's adventure looking for berries. Have fun with the nonsense rhyming words, asking children to repeat after you.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears: Ask the children to imagine what the bear family did while they were out for a walk. What did they do on their picnic?

Big Brown Bear: Read through the story once, emphasizing the "oops" moment with little bear's bat. Talk about treating each other with care and kindness and what it means to be careful. Read again and imagine a happy ending.



For younger children...

It is necessary to be more interactive with your words. Using a "motherese" voice, talk about the children and how they are feeling/doing. Motherese is adult-to-child talk that helps babies learn language and includes the use of short, simple phrases and changes in the pitch of your voice. Other important visual changes are your facial expressions and your body language.

Recommended Teddy Bear Titles:

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Book by Marc Brown

Este no es mi osito/ That's Not My Bear by Fiona Watt

Bear in the Air by Susan Meyers

Un Osito Se Cae de la Cama by Julia Donaldson / Anna Currey

Bears! Bears! Bears! By Bob Barner

Tech Connection: <http://www.brainpop.com/science/diversityoflife/pandas/>
Learn about real live pandas at this terrific site!

Developmental Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening:

The student will: demonstrate knowledge of print and its uses by showing interest in books.