

# Bears, Bears Everywhere!

## Presenter Tip Sheet

### About This Storytime

This storytime covers some facts about bears for very young children. Some books discuss simple facts about different types of bears, and other books discuss basic information about hibernation. It is important to share nonfiction, even with very young children, so choose one of these fact books to share during storytime.

### Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for twos and threes. Always share your longest book first. For the second book, choose a participatory book that engages the children, and ask the caregivers to join in. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines.

#### Book Suggestions:

- *Bear Says Thanks*, by Karma Wilson (Margaret K. McElderry, 2012) (others in series)
- *Bears! Bears! Bears!* by Bob Barner (Chronicle, 2010)
- *Bears in Beds*, by Shirley Parenteau (Candlewick, 2012) (others in series)
- *Little Cub*, by Olivier Dunrea (Philomel, 2012)
- *Make a Wish Bear*, by Greg Foley (Viking, 2012) (others in series)
- *Mama's Little Bears*, by Nancy Tafuri (Scholastic, 2002)
- *Old Bear*, by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow, 2008)
- *Polar Bear Morning*, by Lauren Thompson (Scholastic, 2013)
- *Polar Bear Night*, by Lauren Thompson (Scholastic, 2004)
- *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin Jr. (Henry Holt, 2012)
- *The Three Bears*, by Byron Barton (HarperFestival, 1991)

### Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song, but keep the movements simple. If you use a song that normally has many verses, consider limiting it to two or three verses. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing as many songs as you can with a live voice so that young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is usually sung too fast for this purpose. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the song list below and on the storytime program card.

#### Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "It's Time for Storytime" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.03 🎵 2.04
- "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" (sung to the tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow") 🎧 1.04
- "Bears Are Sleeping" (sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques/Are You Sleeping") 🎧 1.05
- "Did You Ever See a Bear?" (sung to the tune of "The More We Get Together") 🎧 1.17
- "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" (sung to the tune of "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around") 🎧 1.09

### Rhymes

This storytime includes two creative dramatics and one rhyme. The same closing rhyme should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for twos and threes, who still have some limited fine motor skills. Younger children may need caregivers' help with the motions in these rhymes.

#### Rhymes/Creative Dramatics for This Storytime:

- "Two Little Bear Cubs" (Creative Dramatics)
- "Goldilocks" (Creative Dramatics)
- Closing Rhyme: "Wave Goodbye"

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## Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing rhyme. Below are three activities to choose from. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the attention spans and fine motor abilities of twos and threes in mind. Always remember and remind caregivers: **Any activity that involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces requires close adult supervision.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

### Activity Suggestions:

**Creative Dramatics.** Talk about the three bears—Papa Bear, Mama Bear, and Baby Bear—after sharing the story *The Three Bears*, by Byron Barton. Then act out how the bears would walk—Papa Bear would take big steps, Mama Bear medium steps, and Baby Bear little steps. How would they sound? Papa Bear would growl loudly, Mama Bear a bit softer, and Baby Bear even softer yet.

**Bear Sponge Painting.** Provide sponges cut into bear shapes and brown tempera paint for the children to make sponge paintings of bears. Attach clothespins to the sponges to make them easier to handle. Talk with children about bears and comment on the things you see in the children's artwork while they work.

**Bears Around the World Stick Puppets.** In our storytime, we mentioned several kinds of bears. Provide children with patterns of three kinds of bears: a black bear, panda bear, and polar bear, available at [www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles](http://www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles). They can color these, and parents can attach them to craft sticks with glue or tape to make stick puppets. Then sing "Did You Ever See a Bear?" again, with children using their stick puppets for all three bears. Encourage parents to share the song with the puppets at home.



## Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you'll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.