

discovery time

We're Going on a Bear Hunt!

Parents and caregivers, extend Discovery Time into your home. Share these fingerplays and activities with young children. **The letter for this theme is B.**

Little Bear

(Tune: "Frère Jacques")

Are you sleepy, are you sleepy,
Little bear, little bear?
Wintertime is coming,
Wintertime is coming,
Very soon, very soon.

Find a cave, find a cave,
Little bear, little bear.
Wintertime is here,
Wintertime is here,
Go to sleep, go to sleep.

Time to wake up, time to wake up,
Little bear, little bear.
Springtime is here,
Springtime is here,
Find some food, find some food!

Honey Bear

One fine day in the woods I saw

(Hand over eyes like a visor)

A bear in a honey tree licking his paw.

(Pretend to lick hand)

A bee buzzed by and what do you suppose?

(Fly finger around like a bee)

The bee stung the bear on the tip of his nose!

(Touch finger to nose)

"Ouch!" said the bear as he slid down the tree,

(Pretend to slide down a tree)

"I do like honey but I don't like the bees."

(Put hands on hips and shake head)

Here is a Cave

Here is a cave. Inside a bear.

*(Bend fingers on one hand to make a cave;
put thumb inside)*

Now he comes out to get some fresh air.

(Extend thumb)

He stays out all summer in sunshine and heat.

(Hold hands in a circle like the Sun)

He hunts in the forest for berries to eat.

(Pretend to eat berries)

When snow starts to fall, he hurries inside

(Wiggle fingers down like snowflakes)

His warm little cave and there he will hide.

(Put thumb back inside fingers)

Snow covers the cave like a fluffy white rug,

Inside the bear sleeps, all cozy and snug.

(Put hands together next to check and pretend to sleep)

Bears

(Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Grizzly bears are big and brown,

Big and brown, big and brown.

Grizzly bears are big and brown,

And live in the woods.

Panda bears are black and white,

Black and white, black and white.

Panda bears are black and white,

And like to eat bamboo.

Polar bears are soft and white,

Soft and white, soft and white.

Polar bears are soft and white,

And live where it's cold.



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Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities.

- **Talking:** Describe out loud what your toddler is looking at, touching, and playing with.
- **Singing:** Make singing a regular part of your day. Create a cleaning song, a bedtime rhyme, or a chant for getting ready for school. Singing helps children learn the patterns of spoken language and how words are put together.
- **Reading:** Take “picture walks” while reading with your child. Help your child use the picture clues in early readers and picture books to tell the story before reading.
- **Writing:** Help your child read logos of restaurants and stores you visit, as well as print on items you buy often like toothpaste, snacks, and cereal.
- **Playing:** Encourage dramatic play. Help your child to use his favorite stuffed animals to put on a puppet show.

family literacy tip

Helping Children Learn to Write

Writing is a terrific way for children to express their thoughts, creativity, and uniqueness. It is also a fundamental way in which children learn to organize ideas. And learning to write well helps children to be better readers.

Keep markers, pencils, and crayons available at home. Children develop skills that prepare them for writing through their normal play — like drawing, painting, and tracing objects. This kind of play helps prepare the brain and the muscles for holding a pencil and forming written words.

Once children start learning letters, you can practice writing them on paper, in the air, or in sand or snow. These tactile experiences help them feel the shape and motion of the letter.

“Developing Writing and Spelling at Home.” *Reading Rockets*,
www.readingrockets.org/article/developing-writing-and-spelling-home-pre-k.
Accessed 5 September 2018.



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