

Calling All Bears

by Diana Murray, illustrated by Alex Willmore

A humorous and inclusive rhyming text celebrating all kinds of bears and exploring opposites along the way. A jam-packed celebration of bears – from big and small and fast and slow to young and old and messy and neat. Every bear is welcome at the Jamboree – black bears, white bears, polka-dotted bright bears!

Preparation

- Read through the story so you are familiar with it – it will also enable you to practice the best way to hold the book so the children can see the pictures, and you can still see the words.
- Decide on any rhymes you want to include.
- Prepare any follow up activities you want to do – you can find activity sheets on the BookTrust website.

Reading the story

Here are some questions/activities you could ask to engage children with the story. This could be as you read the story or you could come back to one or two pages and do this afterwards.

- **Pages 1 - 10.** How many types of bears do we meet in the first 10 pages of the story?
Answer is 27.
- **Pages 1 - 10.** Who is your favourite bear?
- **At the end.** What other sorts of bears would you have put in the story?



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Rhymes

There are rhymes available on BookTrust's website for this story, here are some more to try:

Teddy Plays on the Swing

Teddy plays on the swing (mime being on a swing)
Teddy plays on the slide (mime being on a slide)
Teddy plays on the swing
And Teddy plays on the slide
And he goes
Tick – tock (rock back and forward)
Forwards and back
Round & round he goes (move in a circle)
Tick – tock
Forwards and back
Round and round he goes

Teddy Bear's Picnic

If you go down in the woods today
You're sure of a big surprise
If you go down in the woods today
You better go in disguise
For every bear that ever there was
Will gather there for certain because
Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic
Every teddy bear whose been good
Is sure of a treat today
There's lots of marvelous things to eat
And wonderful games to play
Beneath the trees where nobody sees
They'll hide and seek as long as they please
That's the way the Teddy Bears have their picnic
Picnic time for Teddy Bears
The little Teddy Bears are having a lovely time today
Watch them catch them unawares, and see them picnic on their holiday
See them gaily gadabout, they love to play and shout, they never have any cares
At six o'clock their mummies and daddies will take them home to bed
Cause they're tired little teddy bears
If you go down in the woods today, you better not go alone
It's lovely down in the woods today, it's safer to stay at home
For every bear that ever there was,
will gather there for certain because
Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic

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Activities

The following activity sheets are available on the BookTrust website.

- Colouring sheet (bear faces)
- Activity Sheet 1 (find the opposite bear)
- Activity Sheet 2 (spot the difference)
- Activity Sheet 3 (count the items)

Other activity ideas include:

- What kind of bear are you? If you were going to the jamboree, what kind of bear would you be?
- Explore and find opposites – something big, something small, something wet something dry etc.

End of session

- Hand out sticker books to any family who doesn't have one
- Give the relevant sticker
- Encourage the family to look at the rhyme for this week that's in the booklet
- Suggest one or two follow up activities from the list that you haven't used

