

# Reception transition day story plan: We're Going on a Bear Hunt

**45 – 60 minutes**

## Welcome and warm-up

Sit with children in a circle, introduce them to new adults and welcome them to the setting. Go around the group and encourage each child to say their name and make a movement or action of their choice. The group then repeats their name and movement together.

## We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury

**You will need: a copy of the book, a story sack containing a human toy/figurine/puppet, grass, blue fabric, mud in a tray, sticks, cotton balls, a cardboard box with a hole cut out and a toy bear.**

- Share the front cover of the book and ask children if they know the story, what they can see on the cover and what they think might happen.
- Begin to read the story aloud, showing the illustrations as you do. Encourage children to join in with the repeated chorus and demonstrate the rhythm of the refrain.
- As the characters reach each new setting, introduce an action to go along with the sounds (such as waving arms for swishy swashy grass or quiet tiptoeing for the cave).
- Add the matching item/s from the story sack to represent each of the new settings in the order they appear (blue fabric for the river, cardboard box for the cave etc.).
- Use your human figurine or puppet to demonstrate a character moving through each of the newly encountered obstacles as you read the lines of the story.
- Keep the bear hidden under the box (representing the cave) until it is found by the characters in the story. Ask the children how the characters might be feeling at this stage. Then ask a child volunteer to help "chase" the characters back home with the bear toy as they retrace their steps through the obstacles.
- After finishing, challenge the group to verbally retell the story with you. Use the resources to model the story as it is retold and remind children to use the actions.

## After reading: go on a bear hunt around the setting

Take the children on a guided tour of your setting using the story language. Show children areas like bathrooms, outdoor areas, and key provision zones like construction areas and reading corners. You can even hide bears along the route for children to spot!

**See our provision planner for some examples of linked provision activities.**

<b>Small World Area</b>	<b>Role Play Area</b>	<b>Writing Area</b>	<b>Creative Area</b>
Use the resources from the story sack to retell <i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i> . Add more toys and elements for children to adapt or add to the story.	Provide puppets, toys or masks based around the story for children to retell and act in role as characters.	Encourage children to draw around their hands to create "paw prints" for a display.  Challenge children to write their names on their pictures.	Create the perfect bear cave! Provide cardboard boxes and teddy bears. Encourage children to decorate the boxes to make creative caves for the bears using arts and crafts resources.
<b>Malleable Area</b>	<b>Reading Area</b>	<b>Sand/Water Area</b>	<b>Maths Area</b>
Using playdough, green wool/string, twigs, cotton wool and blue tissue paper, children can create scenes from the story or make prints in the playdough "mud".	Leave the story book from your session in the book corner with a bear to read to. Provide an inviting selection of other books for children to engage with.  Visit BookTrust's <a href="#">Bookfinder</a>	Challenge children to make a boat for a bear that will float on the water using junk modelling materials like yoghurt pots. Challenge children to make a sandcastle or a cave for a bear toy.	Provide sorting bears and big tweezers. Challenge children to sort the bears into groups based on colour, size or number into corresponding hoops or bowls.
<b>Investigation Area</b>	<b>Construction Area</b>	<b>Music Area</b>	<b>Outdoor Area – mud kitchen</b>
Provide a selection of natural resources to investigate e.g. pine cones, conkers, tree bark, clean feathers and flowers, alongside magnifying glasses and paper for sketching.	Can you make a bridge to help the characters cross the river? Provide a blue fabric "river" for characters to cross and challenge children to make a structure that supports them, using a variety of construction materials.	Provide a variety of simple instruments and encourage children to use them to make up their own song to accompany the words from <i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i> .	Provide a variety of implements and encourage children to make a meal for the bear that it can eat in the cave.
<b>Outdoor Area – gross motor</b>	<b>Outdoor Area - balance</b>	 	
Use giant chalks to draw scenes from the story and encourage children to retell the story as they act in role as characters moving through the scenes before a "bear" chases them back home.	Use safe climbing equipment and balancing beams/benches and challenge children to cross them as if they are crossing the mud or the river from the story. Incorporate prepositional language (under, through, over etc.) into play.		