



# *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*

Michael Rosen • Helen Oxenbury

This resource is inspired by *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. It is full of fun and easy activities for you to do with your little ones indoors and outside - supporting their early communication and literacy skills.

Children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than children who don't.



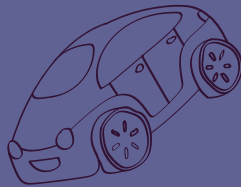
# Welcome to our bear hunt!



We're really excited that you are joining us on this fun adventure. As any good explorer knows, you have to get ready to go on a bear hunt ... try this fun role play activity with your little one to help their imagination grow.

## Activity: Packing a bag

Imagine you are packing a bag to get ready for your adventure. Why not find a rucksack, a carrier bag or even a pillowcase to act this out with your little one?



Talk to your child about any toys they would like to share with the bear when they meet him. Why not play a game together in preparation?



Talk to them about what you are putting in the bag – for instance a torch, some pyjamas or some snacks for the journey.



## Activity: Make your own binoculars

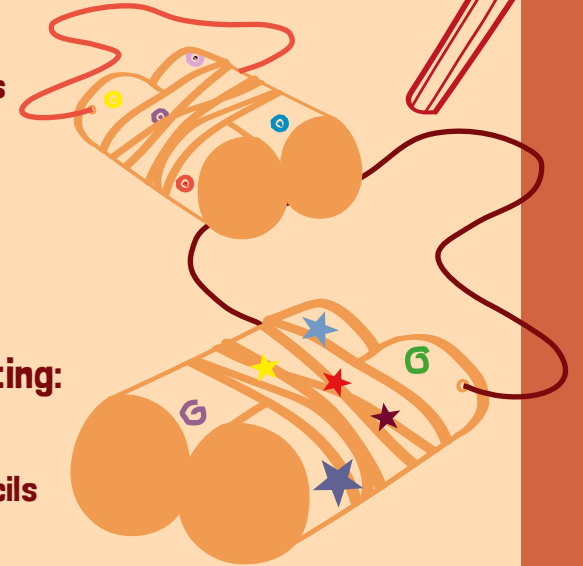
You might like to make a pair of binoculars for your adventure. An explorer must always be on the lookout!

### You will need:

- Two empty toilet rolls
- Sticky tape or glue
- Scissors
- String or shoe laces

### Optional for decorating:

- Stickers
- Coloured pens or pencils



### Method:

1. Stick the toilet rolls together with sticky tape
2. Measure and cut your string so it is long enough to wear around your neck with the binoculars
3. Help your child cut a small hole on the top outside edge of both toilet rolls
4. Thread the string through one hole and secure with a knot. Repeat on the other side
5. Colour in or use stickers to decorate your binoculars
6. Now you're ready to go on your bear hunt...

Uh-uh! Grass!  
Long wavy grass!



Grass is green, grass is tall and grass is short.  
Can you think of anything else that is tall or short?

## Activity: Scavenger hunt

Choose a room in your home and see if you can find two things that are tall or short.

Once you have done that, why not head outside to hunt for something green?

Keep an eye out for leaves, creepy crawlies or maybe even a dinosaur.

### Top tip

If it's raining outside you could always look for something green indoors, or do some colouring using a green pencil crayon.

Uh-uh! A river!  
A deep cold river.

After going through the grass in the story, the family have to splash through a river.

What different noises can you make in water? It's time to head into your bathroom!

## Activity: Play with water

### You will need:

- A bowl or bath
- Water
- Things to drop in the water – e.g. plastic toys, a straw, dry pasta, pebbles, marbles or paper

### Method:

1. Fill up a bowl with water or run some water in the bath
2. Take it in turns to put different things in the water. Do they sink or float?
3. Try splashing to make ripples or use a straw to blow bubbles
4. Listen to the noises – splish, splash, plop, bubble and slurp. Have a go at repeating the noises with your child.

This sensory activity is great to get your little one listening to and copying the sounds they hear.

### Top tip

You could always try this at bath time while getting your little one ready for bed.



Uh-uh! Mud!  
Thick oozy mud.

When looking for animals in the wild it's a good idea to keep an eye out for footprints in the mud. Why not have a go at making some at home?

This mark-making activity will bring the story to life and is an important step towards helping your child learn to write!

### Activity: Get muddy

1. Using paint and paper, paint the bottom of your child's foot and let them make their very own footprints
2. Have a go at creating animal markings using a fork, a pencil or your fingertips. You could make footprints for birds, dogs or even bears!

#### Top tip

If you don't have any paint, why not take it in turns to draw around your feet and colour them in?

Trace the bear pawprints with your finger to reach the next activity!



Uh-uh! A forest!  
A big dark forest.

The family is really brave as they walk through the dark forest - but it is home to lots of friendly animals so there's no need to be scared.

### Activity: Name the animals

Point to the animals on this page and see if your child can name them.

Do they know what noises they make?

One of these animals definitely wouldn't be hiding in a forest - can you spot it?



#### Top tip

Pretend to be the animals on this page. Your child will love to see you being silly and will enjoy copying you.



Well done for finishing your bear hunt  
You now know easy, quick ways to boost your child's literacy

Uh-uh! A cave!  
A narrow gloomy cave.

When the family reach the cave they find the bear.

It's now time for us to end our bear hunt too with one last activity.

## Activity: Make a den

Caves can sometimes feel scary, but they can be cosy too – just like a den!

Find a surprising place to build a den for yourselves and the bear. You'll need a blanket and some pillows to make it comfy.

This is the perfect opportunity to snuggle down and share a story together. You could use a cuddly toy or imagine the bear from the story is tucked up with you.

## Top tip

If you don't have a book at hand you can make up a story! Your child will love listening to you and it's a great way to bond with them.

If you enjoyed these activities, head to [wordsforlife.org.uk](http://wordsforlife.org.uk) for more fun things to do with your children.