

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Pup and Bear

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Preschool edition
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Overview of Book

Life in the Arctic is hard even when your mommy is with you, but Pup is lost and all alone. Somehow, Bear finds Pup and takes care of him throughout the Big Freeze and the Big Melt. Bear teaches Pup everything his own mommy would have. Pup learns to trust Bear and soon Pup is old enough and big enough to go out on his own. What will Pup remember from this experience? When it is his turn to help a little bear, he remembers everything that Bear taught him.

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Pup and Bear* to introduce in your classroom:

whoosh	shelter
nuzzle	snowdrift
cautious	bellow
nudge	tundra

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Social and Emotional
Development

Item D (*Emotions*)

Item E (Building relationships
with adults)

Item G (community)

Science & Technology
Item DD
(Natural and physical world)

Social Studies
Item GG
(Geography)

Reading Tips

Read this with a hushed but emotional tone to mirror the vastness of the landscape and the emotions of the story.

Use a consistent voice for the characters. Bear must instill trust in Pup in order to help him. Pup goes from lonely to frightened to calm because of Bear's tone.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Children can share favorite stories of times with friends or loved ones at **Greeting Time**.

Have the children **transition** throughout the day as if they were wolves or polar bears. Refer to the book for specific behaviors. For example, wolves howl and move in a pack. Polar bears are huge and children may need to adjust how they move.

At **Small Group Time**, introduce a lotto game for the children to match animal adults and babies.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Support baby/caregiving play in the **House Area**. Use terms and references from the story as you partner in play.

Have adult and baby animals in the **Block Area** for children to act out the story. Square blocks could be icebergs!

Post photos of examples of caring in the **Book** and **Block Areas**.

Add titles that also show nurturing and caring behavior, such as *A Sick day for Amos McGee* or *A Chair for My Mother*, to the **Book Area**.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Pup and Bear*:

Pup was tired and wanted his mother. How else do you think Pup might be feeling?

Why do you think Bear decided to take care of Pup?

What made grown-up Pup take care of the cub?

Do you think either Pup or Bear ever think of each other? Do they remember each other? Why do you think so?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Pup and Bear* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Pup and Bear is a warm and wonderful story about caring. As a parent or caregiver, you probably already do many of the things that Bear does with Pup: cuddle, nuzzle, keep your little one warm, show where food is, play together and, when necessary, scold (to keep safe from harm). Connect your nurturing with the story, "We're cuddling just like Bear and Pup." Think about acting out this story with your child. One time, you can be Bear and your child Pup; the next time, your child might want to be Bear and take care of you. Love is conveyed by actions more often than by words!