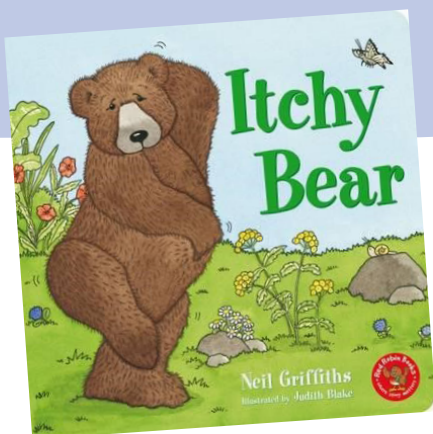


Ideas to use with the story



Remember when together with your child:

Get **DOWN** to your **CHILD'S LEVEL**

LISTEN

Make **EYE CONTACT**

MODEL sounds during play

Find a **QUIET** area for reading!

Use your **VOICE** and **FACE** to make it fun and enjoyable!

Things that will help you:

With young children you don't need to read every word in the story, you can just talk about the pictures.

Try not to ask too many questions—just point and name. Try pointing and saying “It's a.” leave a **SHORT** pause, if your child does not fill in the gap, then you say what it is.

Give your child lots of praise and encouragement and add words to what they say. For example if your child says “App.” You say “Yes! A **BIG** apple!”

With children who are a little older, gently encourage your child to talk about the book afterwards, see what they can remember.

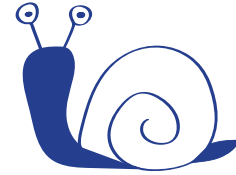
Enjoy the book online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LisCg9SC-vc>

Free activities/resources for parents and practitioners:

<https://www.bouncemarketing.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/RRB-Itchy-Bear-FREE-Resources.pdf>

Ideas to discuss before or after reading the story: <https://fliphtml5.com/lupq/zrcr/basic>

Bug Hunt



Go on a **bug hunt** in the garden or use the book to find different bugs in the illustrations. You can find bugs everywhere - under logs and rocks, beneath plant pots, on leaves and in the grass. Remember to be really gentle as you are looking for bugs. Talk about the bugs you find with your child, looking carefully at the colours and textures.

Skills: finding, curiosity and fascination

What do I need?

- The book *Itchy Bear*
- You could use a magnifying glass, or binoculars made from toilet rolls

Getting started?

- Look at the book together and talk about the animals in the pictures
- If your child can't name the animals - you can tell them the names, you are helping your child to learn new words

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about bugs. For example: butterfly, ladybird, snail, millipede, dragonfly.

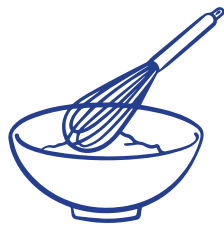
Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Name the minibeasts you find together. If your child names a minibeast give him/her lots of praise, and add more words. For example: Your child says "butterfly". You say: "Yes! it's a BIG butterfly!" "Worm" "Yes! It's a wriggly worm!"

When you are reading *Itchy Bear* with your child, give your child an opportunity to talk about the book. You are helping your child to learn new words, developing their attention skills by getting involved in their play and motivating them to stay focused.

Baking



Bake some animal biscuits with your child. Look at the *Itchy Bear* book and talk about your child's favourite animal. Look carefully at the features and use your biscuit mix to make the animal.

Skills: baking, mixing, creating

What do I need?

Ingredients:

- 100g butter, softened
- 50g caster sugar
- 150g self-raising flour

Getting started?

- Cream the butter and caster sugar together
- Add the flour and mix to form a dough
- Create minibeast shapes and bake in the oven for 20 mins at 180°C or at gas mark 4

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about what you are doing. For example: bake, squeeze, roll, mix, stir, knead, soften.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Talk about your **actions** as you bake together. For example: "Mix, mix." "Stir it. Stir it with a spoon." "Roll it, roll it, roll it" "Pour. Pour it in." You can sing these repetitive words too - children often like to join in with singing.

Talk about the sequence: "First we....then you....Next we...." etc

Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Sing Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes with your child. Using the book *Itchy Bear*, talk about all the places Itchy Bear scratches e.g. toes, ears, chin etc. Sing Head, shoulders, Knees and Toes pointing out the body parts and ask your child to join in with you.

Skills: singing, identifying body parts

What do I need?

- Lyrics for 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' song

Getting started?

- Look at the book together and talk about the body parts
- Say "We know a song about body parts don't we?"
- Sing and carry out the actions

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about parts of the body. For example: head, shoulders, knees, toes, eyes, ears, mouth and nose. These can also be used when playing with favourite dolls or characters.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond! For example: "You're touching your nose, your mouth and your head."

TOP TIP

When your child knows body parts, you can add descriptive words. For example, child says "Knees" You say "Yes! Dirty knees!". Other descriptive words: big, little, clean, beautiful, lovely etc. Or you can say: Mummy's knees, Daddy's knees etc.

Re-telling



Play **Re-telling** with your child. Make a sock puppet for *Itchy Bear*, mole, owl, squirrel, millipede and the butterfly. You could even use a wooden spoon, or stones from the garden to turn into characters from the book. Re-tell the story using the puppets you have created.

Skills: turn taking, recalling, creating

What do I need?

You could use any resources to create the characters e.g. Sock, wooden spoon, felt pens, crayons, stones etc.

Getting started?

- Encourage your child to create a puppet using the items that you have
- Praise your child for their efforts
- Retell the story using the puppet

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while you are playing. For example: rock, scratching, itchy, branch, tummy.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond! If your child does not say the word correctly – you can just repeat what they say using the correct pronunciation. For example: your child says “ock” - you say “yes! It's a ssock”

TOP TIP

When you are reading *Itchy Bear* with your child, pause to give your child an opportunity to talk about the book.

You can point and say “It's a ...” If they don't say the word - you just say it. Repeat anything they do say back to them and add more words e.g. “Yes! It's a delicious apple!” Use lots of funny sounds/scratching sounds to keep your child interested.

Teddy Bear's Picnic



Have a **teddy bear's picnic** with your child. There are lots of ways to develop this into pretend play using the book. Collect a range of your child's favourite dolls, teddies or superheroes and prepare a picnic with them (fruit, sandwich, drinks).

Skills: imagining, pretending

What do I need?

- Real or pretend food items
- Soft toys
- Blanket

Getting started?

- Set out the tea party toys for your child
- Encourage your child to join in with the picnic
- Get involved in the play and follow your child's lead
- Praise your child whenever possible

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while having your picnic. For example: drinking, favourite, pretend, picnic, yummy.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond! For example: "Drink" "Yes, you're drinking."

TOP TIP

You may need to model how to play with the tea party toys. For example, show how to pour tea, hold it to bear's mouth and talk about what you are doing using lots of sounds and gestures. For example: "Apple. This is for Bear, Here you go Bear. Mmm! Bear's eating. Bear's drinking. Slurp!"