



Foundational Skills

In addition to reading the numerous high-frequency words in the text, this book also supports the development of foundational skills.

Phonological Awareness: The /s/ sound

Oddity Task: Say the /s/ sound for your child. Say the following words aloud. Ask your child to say the word that does not end with the /s/ sound in the following word groups:

bus, yes, yet	gas, gab, kiss	cab, bats, cabs	miss, mess, mix
us, play, plus	this, less, fast	set, loss, toss	past, pass, pats

Phonics: The letter Ss

1. Demonstrate how to form the letters **S** and **s** for your child.
2. Have your child practice writing **S** and **s** at least three times each.
3. Ask your child to point to the words in the book that start with the letter **s**.
4. Write down the following words and ask your child to circle the letter **s** in each word:

see	sit	is	Sam	say	was
saw	bears	sat	kiss	something	she
basket	pass	star	said	house	sun

Fluency: Shared Reading

1. Reread the story to your child at least two more times while your child tracks the print by running a finger under the words as they are read. Ask your child to read the words he or she knows with you.
2. Reread the story taking turns, alternating readers between sentences or pages.



Language

The concepts, illustrations, and text help children develop language both explicitly and implicitly.

Vocabulary: Number Words

1. Explain to your child that numbers can be written as words or numerals.
2. Write the following words on separate pieces of paper:
zero one two three four five
six seven eight nine ten
3. Read each word to your child and ask your child to repeat it.
4. Mix the words up. Point to a word and ask your child to read it. Provide clues if your child needs them.
5. Hold up any number of fingers from zero to ten and ask your child to point to the correct word that represents that number.
6. Write the numbers 0–10 on separate pieces of paper and ask your child to match the numerals with the number words.
7. When your child has mastered these first numbers, you may wish to repeat the activity again for numbers eleven to twenty.



Reading Literature and Informational Text

To support comprehension, ask your child the following questions. The answers either come directly from the text or require inferences and discussion.

Key Ideas and Detail

- Ask your child to retell the sequence of events in the story.
- Who are the members of the bear family?

Craft and Structure

- Is this a book that tells a story or one that gives information?
How do you know?
- How do you think the bears felt when they came home?

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Why do you think the girl was sleeping when the bears came home?
- Who are the people in your family?