

Beyond the Book Activities

Time to Sleep By Denise Fleming

Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
 - Student aid
 - Special education and grade repetition
 - Teacher related costs
 - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECFE Little Cubs.

Supplies Needed

Activity 1

- Teddy Grahams
- Paper cups (8)
- Scissors

Activity 2

- Teddy bear
- Box

Activity 3

- Paper

- Markers

Activity 4

- Crayons
- Glue
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Brown construction paper
- Small paper bowls

***Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

Activity 1: Bear Cave

Supplies you'll need: Teddy grahams, scissors and 8 paper cups

Directions:

- Label each paper cup 1 - 8
- Turn each cup upside down and cut a small opening on the front to make caves out of the cups.
- Give your child some teddy grahams.
- Challenge your child to put the correct number of bears in the cave. (For example, if a child has a cave with a one there should only be teddy graham in the cave.)
- Have your child work through each cave.
- Enjoy a teddy graham snack!

Activity 2: Where is the Bear?

Supplies you'll need: Teddy bear and box (or cave from Activity 1)

Directions:

- Place the bear in different positions in relationship to the box (cave) and ask your child to tell you where the bear is located. For example, the child could say "The bear is behind/in/on/in front of/beside the cave."
- After your child has described where the bear is in relationship to the cave, have your child place the bear in different places and have you identify the bear's location.

Activity 3: Move Like a...

Supplies you'll need: Paper and markers

Directions:

- Referring to the book, have your child listen and look for the ways the characters move. For example, the bear crawls, the snail slowly slithers, the skunk was digging, the turtle trudged, etc.
- Record all of the ways the characters moved.
- Challenge your child to move like a character in the book.
- Take turns with your child moving like a character in the book and guessing what character is being imitated.

Activity 4: Turtle

Supplies you'll need: Crayons, glue, scissors, green and brown construction paper and small paper bowls

Directions:

- Show your child the picture of the turtle in the story.
- Discuss how the turtle's shell looks and how he uses it for protection, as well as for his home.
- Give your child a small paper bowl.
- Instruct your child to turn their bowl upside down and color it like a turtle's shell.
- Then have your child tear brown and green construction paper into small pieces and glue them on to the "shell."
- Help your child color and cut out the head, tail, and four legs and tape them to the bottom of the "turtle."

