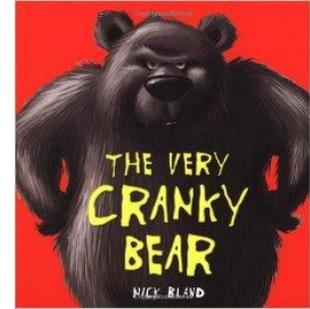


The Very Cranky Bear

By Nick Bland

Nick Bland's expressive, adorable illustrations complement delightful, rhyming, read-aloud text in this lesson about the importance of sharing with others. Moose, Lion, Zebra, and Sheep take shelter in a cave on a cold and rainy day, only to realize that a bear is there. ...Is there anything the four well-meaning friends can do to help the bear sleep? - Indigo



Cognitive: Create a sheet with bears of two different sizes. Have a legend indicating all large bears be colored one colour, and all small bears be colored another.

As another option, for older children, have them color different numbers of bears different colors (e.g. 20 bears: 3 red, 2 blue, 3 yellow, 7 green, 5 purple.)

Craft: Create a very cranking bear using a Styrofoam cup for the body, small circles of brown paper for the head, snout and ears. Children can use different shapes to create their own very cranky bear face.

As another option, print the outline of the zebra, moose, sheep and lion. Decorate the sheep with cotton balls, the lion with fur and the zebra with stripes, and the moose with antlers, using different materials. Be creative!

Emotional Literacy: Create a bear puppet (out of a paper-bag or fur mitt), and have children ask the bear questions about why he is cranky, and what he really wants based on the story. Children can explore the feelings of the different animals within the story (scared, confused, happy, cranky), and talk about what they do when they are cranky, and what they can do to make themselves or others feel better (listen to music, talk to someone, do a sport, cry, tickles etc.).

Game: Create a matching game, using images of a lion, moose, sheep and zebra. Match the picture of the mane, antlers, wool and stripes to the respective animal.

Gross Motor: Challenge children to move like the animals in the story. Lumber like a bear, skip like a sheep, bounce like a zebra, and strut like a lion.

Media: Download “The Very Cranky Bear” app for the iPad. It is available in the app store for \$6.99, and players can record their voice to narrate the story, as well as search for 5 hidden cards to unlock a secret surprise.

Sensory: Using chocolate pudding, have the children paint their hands with the pudding and create an upside down handprint. The fingers become the legs, and the thumb becomes the bear’s tail. When it dries, children can glue on a pre-made bear head, or use their own photograph.