

# Storytime Guide:

*A Polar Bear in The Snow*

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Shawn Harris

## Let's Read Together!

Ask questions as you read:

- The story repeats the phrase, “Where is he going?” Before turning the page, ask your child to predict where the polar bear is going and what they might see.
- Before reading the text, invite your child to look at the pictures and ask, “What is going on in this picture?” This is good for the pages where the polar bear goes into the water.

More Ideas:

- The endpapers on the inside of the cover sometimes give clues about what may happen in the story. Ask why they are blue.
- Point to the words as you read so your child starts to make the connection between what you say and the text on the page.

## Let's Talk!

- Ask your child to share what adventures they like to have in the snow.
- Invite your child to retell the story in their own words. Can they tell the story in the correct sequence?
- Make up a story together about where the polar bear goes at the end of the book.

### **Polar Bear, Polar Bear**

*Sung to Teddy bear, Teddy Bear (Act out each of these motions with your child.)*

Polar bear, polar bear turn around  
Polar bear, polar bear touch the ground

Polar bear, polar bear wake up now  
Polar bear, polar bear take a bow

Polar bear, polar bear dance on your toes  
Polar bear, polar bear touch your nose

Polar bear, polar bear show your paws  
Polar bear, polar bear hide your claws

Polar bear, polar bear scratch your head  
Polar bear, polar bear go to bed



### REPEAT READS

When your child asks to read the same book over and over—that's a good sign! Young children learn from repetition.

### WORDS TO KNOW

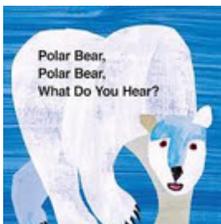
**Phonological awareness** is the ability to hear and play with sounds in spoken language. Singing songs and nursery rhymes helps build this skill.

## Let's Create & Play!

- **Move like the Animals!** Walk like a polar bear on all fours, roll in the snow, shake off water, slide like a seal.
- **Create a bear cave in your house.** Use pillows and blankets to make a fort-style cave. Snuggle up in the cave to read and play.
- Make **A Polar Bear in the Snow** picture by ripping white paper and crumpling it up to make different textures, similar to the book. Cut out a polar bear shape to add to the picture.
- **Play with Patterns!** Many illustrations show repeated patterns, like rays of light, ripples of water, and leaves of kelp. Head outside and see what other patterns you can find in nature!

## More to Explore

If you liked this book, we think you'll like these too! Ask a librarian at your local library to help you find them.



*Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear?* by Bill Martin Jr., illus. by Eric Carle

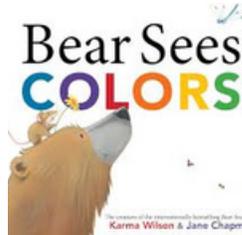
*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*  
Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen, illus. by Helen Oxenbury



*From Head to Toe*, by Eric Carle



*Bear Sees Colors*, by Karma Wilson, illus. by Jane Chapman

## Maine's Early Learning Standards

Reading with your child helps prepare them for school while also supporting early learning standards

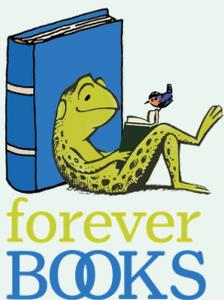
### Language and Literacy

Your child...

- holds a book correctly, turns one page at a time.
- retells familiar stories using both storybook language and pictures.
- makes predictions about what will happen next.
- recognizes and produces rhyming words.
- uses language to express thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly.

### Approaches to Learning and Play

- participates in a variety of rhythmic and creative movement activities.



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We hope you enjoyed this guide! You can learn more about Forever Books by visiting [islandreadersandwriters.org/forever-books](http://islandreadersandwriters.org/forever-books)

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