

# Bookbug Session: The Bear and the Hare and the Fair

Help us celebrate *The Bear and the Hare and the Fair* by Em Lynas and Matt Hunt from this year's Bookbug Explorer Bag!

Bear and Hare are at the fair, and there's so much to enjoy... Just not together, it seems. Will the pair of them be able to find something they'll both like?

## 1. Introduction song

### The Hello Song

#### **Benefits**

Familiar start – lets everyone know a Bookbug Session has started.

#### **Tips**

Smile and use names if you know them. Clap or tap along to the beat and use signs if you know them.

## 2. Finger rhyme

### Round and Round the Garden

#### **Benefits**

This rhyme is great for positive touch and interaction as well as building anticipation and excitement.

#### **Tips**

This rhyme creates opportunities for older children to take turns in tickling each other. You can even use it as a mark-making rhyme. What does "tickly under there" look like as a mark on paper, for example? If you'd like to try something more active, you could encourage children to move around the room as you say 'round and round the garden'. When the rhyme indicates taking steps, ask the children to take giant steps or baby steps towards a friend before ending with a tickle.

## 3. Rhyme

### Creeping, Creeping Goes the Little Cat

#### **Benefits**

This short rhyme plays with anticipation as well as speed and volume. Go slowly to start with and use Makaton or another sign system to help children catch the language. The chain of three is helpful for children forming sounds, so let them practise.

#### **Tips**

Repeat this over and over again. Children can creep round the room as if they are the creeping cat, then jump up and down like bunnies – or hares – hopping.

## 4. Action song

### Old MacDonald

#### **Benefits**

A great familiar song to explore different animals and experiment with sounds and movement.

#### **Tips**

Encourage the toddlers and older children to share their ideas about animal sounds. What sound does a bear make? What about a hare? Could you change the words, so instead of “farm” he has a “fair”?

## 5. Transition song

### I wonder what's in my bag today?

#### **Benefits**

Builds anticipation and captures the attention of the children.

#### **Tips**

Use Bookbug to help engage the children in singing the song. Use Makaton to support different communication needs, and hide one puppet in the bag.

Sing the song to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”:

*“I wonder what's in my bag today, bag today, bag today  
I wonder what's in my bag today, come and take a look...  
At Bookbug's favourite book.”*

## 6. Story

### The Bear and the Hare and the Fair by Em Lynas and Matt Hunt

#### **Benefits**

This rhyming book is full of great opportunities to talk about likes, dislikes and reaching a compromise. There are lots of opportunities to include sounds and the bold, interactive nature of the book will help capture and sustain wee ones' attention.

#### **Tips**

Be agile with the book – move it around to make the most of the different layouts and move around the room so that everyone gets a good look.

## 7. Action song

### Five in the Bed

#### **Benefits**

This is a fun and interactive song encouraging the children to count down.

#### **Tips**

This is a great song to share with the sparkly blanket. You could use the puppets or similar items to bounce up and down on the sparkly blanket, taking one away each time.

## 8. Rhyme

### Creeping, Creeping Goes the Little Cat

#### **Benefits**

Recycle your material! Sharing this rhyme again helps wee ones to really get to know it.

#### **Tips**

Encourage wee ones to run two fingertips on the underside of the sparkly blanket to create the ears, then pat the top with a flat hand when the bunnies hop.

## 9. Calming song

### Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

#### **Benefits**

A soothing song to share at quiet times or nap times. The actions will help children to develop their fine manipulative skills, moving/wiggling their fingers and creating shapes with their hands to make a diamond.

#### **Tips**

Gently rock your baby in your arms as you share quiet times together, or share this song sitting face to face. You can do the actions with your own hands and let them see how they are moving. For older children, encourage them to copy the actions you are doing.

## 10. Final song

### The Goodbye Song

#### **Benefits**

Tells everyone the session is coming to an end.

#### **Tips**

Wave, smile and use names if you know them. If you know Makaton you can support this song with signs.