



BOOK TITLE: We're Going on a Bear Hunt
AUTHOR: Michael Rosen
ILLUSTRATOR: Helen Oxenbury



SUMMARY OF BOOK: A father and four children go on a fantastic bear hunt, encountering obstacles along the way: long grass, a river, mud, a snowstorm. Each time, they decide they can't go over or under so they must go through it. Lots of repetition make this a fun book to read aloud.

***BEFORE READING** (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book):

Try questions such as these:

1. Talk about the cover of the book: "Who might these children be?" "Do they look happy, excited, eager?"
2. "What kinds of adventures do we go on that make you feel like that?"
3. Talk about the difference between real and imaginary, true and pretend. Would a family really go on a bear hunt dressed like that?

DURING READING (ask these questions):

1. As you come across the repeating lines, encourage your child to repeat them – singing or shouting – with you. Soon you will be able to give the prompt and she will complete it!
2. Emphasize that they're not *really* "going to catch a big one," that it's a fun, imaginary adventure.
3. Spend time with the pictures, encouraging your child to find details he wants to pay attention to. "What's happening here? How do the children feel?"
4. Try using movement to show "over," "under," and "through." Look for examples around you to demonstrate.
5. Imitate the sounds with your child.
6. Relate to your child's experience: "Have you ever gone through mud? grass? a forest?"

AFTER READING (activity to extend book experience):

1. Ask "Was this all make-believe? How can you tell?"
2. When you go on family outings, relate it back to the book: "We're going out berry-picking" or "We're going to the grocery store" and sing it out.
3. Talk about safety: how we stay away from bears and don't enter caves, how to dress for the weather, safely cross rivers – whatever is appropriate for your child.

