

## How to create an 'immersive' multisensory experience in the comfort of your own home!

**Theme:** *visit to the woods- based on the story- going on a bear hunt, Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.*

### **Brief**

*Why are we doing this?* In order to develop your child's communication skills, we need to use things that motivate them to communicate. We want to teach them to effectively and appropriately communicate 'I like this', 'I don't like this', 'I want more', 'I want this to finish'. This could be through physical actions - reaching, pushing away; facial expressions - smiling, frowning; vocalisations - happy/sad noises, or other methods individual to your child.

Gather the resources in a quiet, distraction free learning space. You will need stimulating items your child can explore in different ways (as appropriate) You know your child best, so choose things you know will engage them

- Tactile objects they can feel
- Sounds they can hear
- Things they can smell
- Objects they can see
- Flavours they can taste

### **My example:**

To experience aspects of the story using simple items found around your home. Can be completed in one session as a complete story or have certain parts used as the focus.

### You will need:

A saucepan and wooden spoon

Jelly of your choice in sealed container

An empty bottle

A water bottle with a small amount of water in it

A broom, or hard brush.

A fan or windmill

Blanket or fabric. Twigs, leaves, bark. Torch or similar light (optional)

### Story

We're going on a bear hunt; we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day!  
We're not scared.....

Uh Oh...grass, long wavy grass. We can't go over it, we can't go under it. Uh Oh!  
We have to go through it! ("swishy swashy" (repeat as necessary) - run the broom/brush along the floor...listen to the sound. Does your child like loud or soft swishy grass noises? Do they like the feel of the brush?)

We're going on a bear hunt; we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day!  
We're not scared.....

Uh Oh! A river, a deep, cold river! We can't go over it, we can't go under it. Uh Oh!  
We have to go through it! ("splish splosh" (repeat as necessary)- Shake the water bottle....Listen to the sound. Shake the bottle various ways to make different sounds. Water play could also be added here, to touch and physically splash, maybe bubbles or a rain stick if you have one?

We're going on a bear hunt; we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day!  
We're not scared.....

Uh Oh! Mud, thick ooey mud! We can't go over it, we can't go under it. Uh Oh!  
We have to go through it! ("Squelch, squerch" (repeat as necessary)- shake the container of jelly...listen to the sound. Shake the container, as well as opening it. Does your child like the feel? What about the taste? Or the smell?

We're going on a bear hunt; we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day!  
We're not scared.....

Uh Oh! A forest a big, dark forest! Uh Oh! We can't go over it, we can't go under it, We have to go through it! ("stumble, trip" (repeat as necessary)- Bang

the pot with the wooden spoon (listen, does your child prefer loud or more quiet noise? Can they follow or 'track' the noise if you move around or to different positions? There is also an option to make the room your using dark at this stage, or use some dark fabric or a blanket to cover over your child. You could also collect some twigs, bark or leaves to feel or smell as an extra prop for this stage).

We're going on a bear hunt; we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day!  
We're not scared.....

Uh Oh! A snow storm, a swirling, whirling snow storm! Uh Oh! We can't go over it, we can't go under it, We have to go through it! ("whooo whooo" - (repeat as necessary)- use your empty bottle to blow over the top to make, wind noises. Put the fan on or use the windmill or both! To create physical feeling of wind. Note your child's responses to feeling, sound of the wind.

We're going on a bear hunt; we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day!  
We're not scared.....

Uh Oh! A cave, a dark, gloomy, narrow cave! Uh Oh! We can't go over it, we can't go under it, We have to go through it! ("tip, toe" (repeat as necessary)- bang you pot very softly, whisper any words spoken to give allusion of being quiet and scared. The blanket could be used again here, to cover your child, to make it dark. A torch could also be used, to try and find your way.

"WHATS THAT?!!!! ONE SHINEY WET NOSE!, TWO BIG FURRY EARS!, TWO BIG GOGGLY EYES!" ..... "IT'S A BEAR!" (Several items can be explored here, more water, feeling more jelly, for wet. Cotton wool or anything similar that feels like fur.

The End...

The ending is completely up to you. Traditionally the story goes back over all the parts backwards until you reach your house, lock the door and hide under the bed covers...or you may choose just to leave it here. The story can also be found on you tube if you would like sound effects, or would prefer the words to be spoken for you.