

Learning possibilities

Text: Shanahan, L 2001, *Bear and Chook*, Hodder Headline, New South Wales.

Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Gather your child/children for a story using the song, 'If you want to hear a story'.
- Step 3: Read/watch the story and encourage your child/children to participate as you emphasise the range of descriptive words, for example: crickety, crockety, splodge, hiss, glob, hurtled, whoosh and crack.
- Step 4: Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. What animals did you see in this story?
 2. Tell me something that happened in this story.
 3. What happened when Bear poked a stick in the ground?
 4. Do you think that was a safe idea? Why?

Respond

Invite your child/children to talk about and remember all the things that Bear wanted to be when he grew up (builder, explorer, sea captain, pilot, dancer and astronaut) and the problems associated with the options. What happened to Chook each time Bear came up with a new idea?

Extend

- Ask your child/children to use their imagination to think about what they might like to be when they are grown-up. Talk about the equipment that they could need for those roles using dress ups and recycled containers at home. Promote dramatic play related to the story using a prop box with hats, shoes, shirts, bags, toy phone, clipboards, paper and pens. If items aren't available, invite children to create a plan for what they might need to make, for example: a doctor's bag, an astronaut's suit and oxygen tanks, a hairdressing salon, rescue workers equipment, a driver's bus and an artist's range of media.
- Be prepared to add and build to the collection of resources as your child/children's interests shift and change. An adult may need to take on an active role in the play, adopting a role and modelling the language necessary to join and sustain the play, for example: 'My baby is sick, I need to make an appointment to see the doctor.' 'The vet said my dog is due for his needle.'

Resources

Song

'If you want to hear a story'
(Tune: 'If you're happy and you know it')
If you want to hear a story, come sit down,
If you want to hear a story, come sit down.
Let's share a great big smile, as we read and talk a while,
It's time to hear a story, come sit down.

Book

Brandenberg, A 1996, *I am me!*, Harcourt Brace & Co., San Diego. (explores the roles children may imagine for themselves)

Video

Bear and Chook Reading (YouTube, Vikki Rossi)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28Z2sl2uYuM>