

Bear Wants to Sing

The 2022 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

by Cary Fagan, illustrated by Dena Seiferling
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After discovering, and licking, a musical instrument in the woods, Bear is excited to sing his song. Unfortunately, Crow, Snake and Tortoise come along and want to do the same thing. Readers will find joy in singing out each animal’s lyrics while also feeling empathy for the bear who feels ignored. Whimsical illustrations accompany text that encourages your child to find their own song.

Activity Ideas for *Bear Wants to Sing*:

- Bear really wants to sing, but the other animals won’t let him take a turn. By being patient, bear is using his impulse control, an important executive function skill. Help your child practice taking turns through play! Partner with your child to build a tower, each taking turns to place one block at the top. Use clear language when your child forgets and remind them of the pattern; first you go, then me until our tower falls over!
- Imitating animal noises and other sounds is one of the first ways babies and toddlers play with language. Encourage this early phonological awareness with silly songs of your own. Pick a song you already know, like “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” or “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and sing the tune using animal sounds! How would a snake sing the song? With extra ‘sss’, of course!
- While you may not discover a budding animal band, every nature walk is an opportunity for your child to make new observations. On your next walk, whether a mountain hike or simple stroll around the block, dial into your child’s senses. Ask questions like, “What does the tree bark feel like?” or “Does your skin feel different in the sun than in the shade?”. Supporting your child through active sensory play boosts their nerve connections in the brain pathways.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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