

Ahoy!

The 2025 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Sophie Blackall

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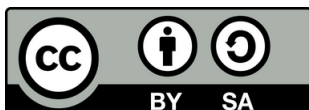


***Ahoy!* portrays a playful relationship between a child and their caregiver. The two sail the high seas without leaving their house! Adventure ensues as the caregiver puts aside their never-ending list of to-do's to enjoy play with their little one. This story models play between caregiver and child beautifully in its representation of developmentally-appropriate games and activities.**

Activity Ideas for *Ahoy!*:

- Create your own pirate adventure in your house! Any room where you live can be an excellent play space. Use your imagination and follow your child's lead. Ask questions, and stay engaged. The more you talk with your little one the more vocabulary they will learn.
- As you play, think about other ways that you can engage with your child. In the story, the caregiver and the child create a map of their adventures. Create a map of your daily routine. Write a list of things you need to do today (like vacuuming the carpet), and have your little one help you create that list. You can always add illustrations and let your little one help you create the list. Littles learn to write by scribbling first. Encourage them to scribble and help you create the art.
- The text in this book is very visually engaging. Point out the text that and draw emphasis to it by acting parts of the story out. By drawing attention to the fact that letters have meaning, you help create print awareness. You can do this as you read this story, and point this out all around you! As you go about your day, point out letters on signs, boxes, or other objects.

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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