Let's Be Bees

The 2026 CLEL Bell Award Book for READ

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Let's Be Bees shows a caregiver and a child engaging in interactive reading. Together, they transform into a variety of creatures and create different sounds, bringing their book to life and creating a strong bond between them! This book shows a strong modeling of reading. It also shows a love for books and the value of reading together.

Activity Ideas for *Let's Be Bees*:

- Gather some of your child's stuffed animals or toys and give them "voices." Ask yourself and your child what each animal would sound like. "What sound does a cow make?" "Moooooo!" Is there a stuffed duck? "Quack, quack." Be sure to modulate your voice, as well! For example, "Does the stuffed bear speak in a deep voice or a high squeaky voice? Helllllloooooo, grrrrrrr."

- Before you read the words on the cover or in the book, take a picture walk with your child. Look at the cover and ask, "What's here on the cover?" Then give them a description of what you see. Look at each page and converse about what you and your child see. Talk about size, emotions, shapes, colors and sounds that are portrayed in the illustrations. This will give you feedback on what your child knows and/or will give your child new information to help them make connections with the words and pictures in the story. It also builds vocabulary.

- Create a short book with your child. Take some paper or a paper grocery bag, fold in half then half again. Cut along the top short side so you'll have 4 separate pages. What's on the cover? Let your child draw. You can draw, too! Add words to your child's illustrations, what letters are used to make sounds? Does the bear have a G-R-R-R written down to show the sounds they make?

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.