

A bear-hunt story is read aloud or told. Children perform actions and sounds that mimic the events in the journey as they travel on, under, and through the playground equipment. Activity leaders may use the following framework if the recommended story is unavailable: A bear family travels through the deep grass of a meadow, swims across a river, wades through oozy mud, journeys through a dark forest, experiences a snowstorm, and explores a cave.

**Play Elements:** Combo (climbing, brachiating, swinging, sliding, spinning, balancing)

**NASPE Standards:** #1, #2, #3, and #6

**Extra Equipment:** A copy of the story, “We’re going on a bear hunt,” available at: <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/bears/bearstg.html>.

## Benefits

- Fosters literacy, creativity, self-expression, and listening skills
- Applies movement concepts such as body awareness and positioning
- Capitalizes on the locomotor and non-locomotor skills that students possess

## Teaching Tip

Promote imagination by asking students “What else would the bear do?”

## Safety Tips

- Ensure students maintain their own personal space throughout the story.
- Ensure that there is sufficient playground safety surfacing under and around the equipment.

## Variations

*Easier* | Read the story to children and demonstrate hand and body gestures before entering the playground.

*More Challenging* | Read and reenact the story faster and faster each subsequent time.

