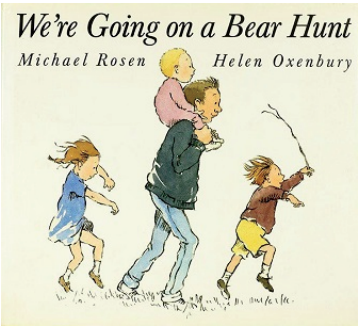
The Scoop in Family Child Care

November 2026 | Issue 65

SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

Featured Book



Step into the world of the bear hunt and join this family as they navigate the various terrains outdoors. From tall wavy grass to a whirling snowstorm, follow this charming family to see what all they will find on their adventure. In this charming classic, children will be swept away by the colorful illustrations, the rhythmic tempo, and a fun adventure filled with twists and turns. This enchanting story is perfect for engaging children of all ages!

www.youtu.be/0gyI6ykDwds?si=ml_BeCR4GnGWi8s_

Sensory

Bear-Themed Sensory Bin



Materials Needed

- Small Bin
- Bear Toys
- Instant Snow Powder
- Plastic & Foam Snowflakes
- Fake Trees
- Pom-Poms
- Wooden Pieces
- Plastic Scoop
- Plastic Cup

Possible Ways to Interact with the Materials

Scooping and pouring the snow, using the bears to act out a story, measuring the snow, counting the trees and sticks, making patterns, filling the cups with snow and toys, and more.

Art Project

Pom-Painted Bears

Materials Needed

- Paper Plate
- Paint
- Pom-Poms
- Clothespins
- Construction Paper
- Glue Stick
- Markers
- Googly Eyes



Directions

Place a clothespin on a pom-pom. Have the kids dip the pom-pom in paint and make prints on the plate. Create ears with paper by making semicircles. Cut out a circle from construction paper for the nose, and have the kids draw their own face.

Finger Play

My Teddy Bear



My teddy bear has two eyes, two eyes, two eyes
My teddy bear has two eyes. I love my teddy bear
My teddy bear has one nose, one nose, one nose
My teddy bear has one nose. I love my teddy bear
My teddy bear has two ears, two ears, two ears
My teddy bear has two ears. I love my teddy bear
My teddy bear has two arms, two arms, two arms
My teddy bear has two arms. I love my teddy bear
My teddy bear has two legs, two legs, two legs
My teddy bear has two legs. I love my teddy bear
My teddy bear has four paws, four paws, four paws
My teddy bear has four paws. I love my teddy bear

https://youtu.be/666UZRBO5q8?si=eZHqkoBCuxBw-bV-

Nutrition

Bear Graham Crackers



Ingredients

- Graham Crackers
- Bananas
- M&Ms
- Sprinkles

Directions

Break graham crackers into squares. Slice a banana. Set the banana slice directly in the center of the cracker. Place two M&Ms above the banana for eyes and one on top for the nose. Use the sprinkles to assemble the face. Use two banana slices for ears.

12 More Books Featuring Bears



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Referral Services

Complete Update Survey

It's time for the annual Complete Update Survey! We ask that all providers fill this out, regardless of whether they accept CCAP or are part of the Referral Database, so we can have the clearest picture of child care in Central Illinois. The survey will be sent out via mail and email. Additionally, there will be an online survey that you can fill out, or you can call and go over the survey with the Referral Specialist.

If you have any questions, contact our Referral Specialist, Jessi, at jguzman@salccc.org or (309) 686-3750, Ext. 2129

Trainings

Group Care Program for Infant Toddler Care

This training introduces special considerations in caring for infants and toddlers and six program policies that support the development of emotionally secure relationships and mental health in the group care setting.

Monday & Tuesday, November 9 & 10
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Online via Zoom
Registration Deadline: 11:55 p.m. Sunday, November 1

Register at **www.salccc.org/provider-services/training**.

Health & Safety

Ensure Your Toys and Products Are Safe

With holidays and gatherings coming up, it is a good time to check toys and products for recalls to ensure that all items used by the children in your program are safe. For the most up-to-date information on product recalls and safety, check out the following websites:

- **www.safekids.org/product-recalls**
- **www.cpsc.gov**

Grants

Did you know that as a licensed child care program, you can apply for a training stipend through the Quality Improvement Funds?

This stipend offers providers $10 per hour for trainings for programs working towards or maintaining an ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality.

To learn more about this stipend and whether your program qualifies, go to **www.salccc.org/provider-services/grant-opportunities**. Additionally, you can contact our Provider Services Manager, Kami McClure, at kmcclure@salccc.org or (309) 686-3750, Ext. 2111.

Home Child Care Network

Home Child Care Network is seeking licensed home care providers to join their **free** program. Their program offers free monthly training, technical support for grants and budgets, mental health support including screenings, and add-on rates for 2nd and 3rd shifts and weekends, with monthly payments guaranteed by the 15th of the month.

For more information, call (309) 685-8064.

Home Daycare Professional Group

Third Tuesday of the Month
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Higher Education Navigation

Thinking about advancing your Early Education Career?

Contact a Higher Education Navigator for Help:

1. Determining your educational goals
2. Identifying which programs are available to best fit your needs
3. Connecting you with Early Childhood Education scholarship opportunities
4. Acting as a point of contact with Higher Education Institutions
5. Completing your Gateways membership
6. CDA cohort
7. Other assistance as needed

Call (309) 686-3750 Ext. 2107

For more information on any of our programs and services
Call: (309) 686-3750 | Fax: (309) 686-3850 | Visit: www.salccc.org
Child Care Assistance Program - Option 2
Referrals - Extension 2129
Training Registration & Grants - Extension 2111
Higher Education Navigation - Extension 2107
Smart Start Grant Expert - Extension 2105
Quality Visits or Information on ExceleRate - Extension 2105
Infant-Toddler Consultations - Extension 2118

SAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
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