



arts on the horizon
Theatre for children 0-6 years old in Northern Virginia

Educational Guide



Written and Directed by Ryan Sellers

Get To Know The Show



Show Description

One cozy winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which turns into a series of exciting adventures. Together, they embark on a journey of endless possibilities - all from the comfort of her playroom.

Discussion: Talking About the Show

(Cognitive Development & Comprehension, Language Control & Speech, Auditory Learning)

What's your favorite stuffed animal or lovie? Start talking with your students about how they like to play. How do you play with your lovie? Do you have big adventures or do you just snuggle at night? Have you ever lost your lovie? Do you ever have to wash him/her? This conversation is a great way to open a dialogue about cherished toys like Mr. Bear!

Characters

Adventures with Mr. Bear features two actors and a pianist.



Jayden: An imaginative young girl. She is daring and uninhibited.



Mr. Bear: A fantastically warm & worn old, stuffed bear. He is patient, wise, and endlessly loyal.

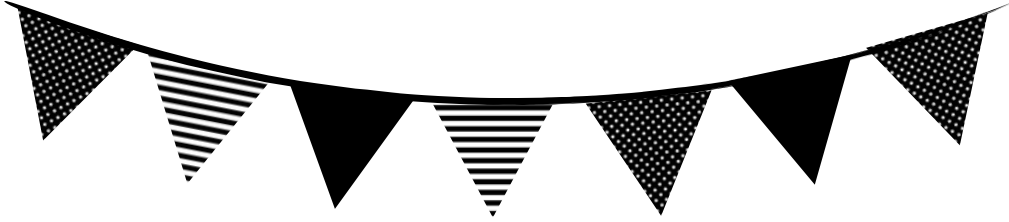
Themes to Explore

friendship, sharing, self-confidence, adventures, maps, and creative play (all possibilities created out of just the things in your room)

EXTENSION: Stuffed Animal Party

To extend the experience and practice sharing/speaking in front of a group, invite your students to bring their favorite stuffed animals or lovies to school with them! During circle time, ask each student to share the name of their lovie with the group. Then take turns passing each animal around the circle. For older students, you can ask them to share with a buddy. For a full imagination adventure, invite the stuffed animals to station time or free play. How can your students play with their lovie and the blocks or other stations at the same time?

Stuffed Animal Party!



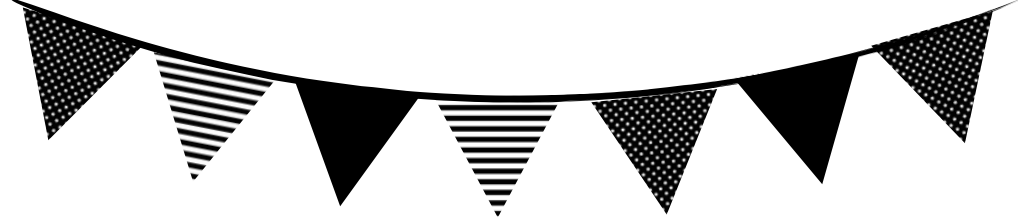
We are having a special day of friendship, sharing, and adventures!

Your child is invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal to class to prepare our class to see Arts on the Horizon's play *Adventures with Mr. Bear*.

Please pack your child's favorite stuffed animal to bring to class on



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Before You See The Show

Let's Imagine: Cross the Room

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development)

Jayden and Mr. Bear have big imagination adventures. Spark your students' imagination by playing this simple, but engaging activity. Ask your students to stand on one side of the room. They are going to cross the room from one side to the other in a bunch of silly ways. Begin with just walking across the room, next ask them to imagine how they might move across the room if the floor were hot sand. *Would they move quickly so they wouldn't burn their feet? Would they only step with their toes? What sounds might they make?*

Repeat with these suggestions or make up your own:

Imagine the floor is...

- Cold Tile
- Pudding
- Lots of Puddles
- On the Moon
- Covered in Bubble Gum
- Soft Clouds
- Deep Water
- Muddy and Messy
- Hot Lava
- Creaky and Sneaky

Music and Movement: Teddy Bear

(Listening, Perceiving, Performing, Responding, Kinesthetic and Auditory Learning, Big Muscle Development)

This active song is a great way to prepare for seeing *Adventures with Mr. Bear*. Follow the directions of the lyrics and have fun signing and dancing with your whole class!



Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, jump up high.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the sky.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, bend down low.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your toes.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn off the light.
Everybody say shh!
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say goodnight.

EXTENSION: Invite older students to make up their own ways to move and encourage them to challenge classmates to walk across the floor. Because this is an imagination activity, there's no wrong answer!

Adventures With Maps!

Let's Imagine: Where's Mr. Bear?

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development, Symbol Interpretation, Early Literacy Skills, Storytelling)

Use the map on the next page to have an imagination adventure. Hide a stuffed animal in your room (somewhere out of view of your students). Explain that Mr. Bear is missing, but he left us to map to find him. You might print the map or use a projector. Ask your students to look at the symbols on the map (the trees, cave, mountains, and pond). Brainstorm with them what each of these symbols might mean.

Moving around the room, pretend to travel through the world of the map. How might your class move through the forest? What sounds might they hear? What about the cave or the mountains? Lead your class around the room, finally ending up near where you hid the bear!

Make Your Own Map!

(Creative Expression, Fine/Gross Motor Development)

Supplies:

- Cold Coffee or Black Tea (the stronger the better)
- Rollers or Big Paint Brushes
- White Paper
- Black Markers or Black Paint & Thin Brushes
- *Optional: stickers or cutout shapes for symbols on map*

Begin this two-day project by painting a big piece of paper with strong coffee or black tea. Use big brushes or rollers to encourage students to cover the whole page. This will make their maps look old. Once dry (overnight), use markers of thin brushes in black paint to draw a twisty path to follow on the map. They might experiment with different types of lines: straight, curvy, zig-zag, etc. You might add cut out shapes of different map symbols or some nature/pirate stickers for extra fun!





Where's Mr. Bear?

Mr. Bear went on a big adventure! He left you this map to find him! Follow the map from the star to the paw print, pretending to go through the forest, the cave, the mountains, and the pond to get to him!

After You See The Show

Discussion: Reviewing the Show

(Comprehension, Appropriate Response, Cognitive Development, Speech Skills, Listening)

Start with an open-ended conversation about *Adventures with Mr. Bear* to practice memory, reflection, and articulation. Let the students direct the discussion and go deeper into moments towards which they gravitate.

- Tell me about the show.
- What happened in the show?
- Who were the characters in the show?
- What did the girl and the bear play with?
- Do you have any of those toys at your home or school?
- How did the little girl save Mr. Bear?

Extension:

For children 5 and up, ask more in-depth questions:

- Are Mr. Bear and the child friends? How did you know?
- What was something nice Mr. Bear did for the little girl?
- What was something nice the little girl did for Mr. Bear?

Recommended Reading

(Comprehension, Cognitive Development, Listening, Early Literacy)

If you and your little ones enjoyed *Adventures with Mr. Bear*, you might like these books about loyal toys and big adventures:

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity

by Mo Willems

Found

by Salina Yoon

You Are My I Love You

by Maryann Cusimano Love and Satomi Ichikawa

Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude

by Kevin O'Malley and Carol Heyer

Paddington

by Michael Bond and R. W. Alley

Corduroy

by Don Freeman

