

## Learning possibilities

**Text:** Rosen, M (retold) 1993, *We're going on a bear hunt*, Walker Books, London.

### Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Read the story and encourage your child/children to join in with the repetitive refrain, 'We can't go over it, we can't go under it, we can't go around it, we'll have to go through it.'
- Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
1. Where were the family going? (on a bear hunt)
  2. How many children were going on a bear hunt? (three)
  3. What did they have to go through first? (long wavy grass)
  4. Which part of the story did you like the best? Why?

### Respond

This story is ideal for retelling outside by including elements of the story into an obstacle course. Discuss this idea with your child/children and prompt them to consider what they might use for the long wavy grass, deep cold river (water in a shallow plastic container), thick oozy mud, big dark forest, swirling, whirling snowstorm and narrow gloomy cave. As they move around the obstacle course, encourage them to repeat the refrain 'We can't go over it, we can't go under it, we can't go around it, we'll have to go through it.'

### Extend

- Consider using shallow plastic boxes with water, mud, grass etc to step into as the story is retold by an adult
- Discuss ideas for making sound effects to support retelling the story.
  - grass: 'swishy swashy' (rub hands together)
  - river: 'splash splosh' (shake hands in water or shake a water bottle)
  - mud: 'squelch squerch' (shake hands in mercury dough)
  - forest: 'stumble trip' (create a drum beat with hands)
  - snowstorm: 'hoooo woooo!' (blow across the top of an empty bottle)
  - cave: 'tiptoe tiptoe' (tap index and middle fingers of right hand against index and middle fingers of left hand)
- Encourage your child/children to make a cave using a large cardboard box.
- Pose the question, 'What if the children didn't want to cross the river, how could we help them get across safely?' This question may lead to your child/children creating a bridge for the children to cross. You could use some cardboard, a piece of material, blocks and blue fabric or paper for the river.

### Resources

#### Video

*We're Going On a Bear Hunt* | BOOK | Kids' Poems and Stories with Michael Rosen (YouTube, Kids' Poems and Stories with Michael Rosen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iou5LV9dRP0>

*Michael Rosen performs We're Going on a Bear Hunt* (YouTube, Walker Books)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gyI6ykDwds>