Brown Bear, Brown, What Do You See? is a great book to use for talking about colors, animals, and introducing narrative skills. Narrative skills provide your child with the ability to understand what they are reading or hearing in a story. It is the ability to know that a story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. The use of repeated phrases in this book helps increase your child’s narration skills, as does the last page of the book, which serves as a summary of the animals in the story.

Use the book as a starting point to talk about colors. Talk to the children about the colors they are wearing, their favorite colors, the colors of their rooms, etc. Talk about how colors change when they are mixed or blended together.

It is normal for children to have difficulty learning their colors or they mix them up. Stanford University researchers found that adults saying the color word after nouns made it easier and faster for children to learn colors. Instead of saying “the red balloon,” say “the balloon that is red.”

Toddlers love looking at picture books of objects organized by shape and color. Start by asking children to identify things nonverbally; say, "Can you show me the red square?" and let him point to it. As he begins to learn the names of the colors, you can reverse the game, pointing to objects yourself and asking, "What color is this triangle?" Either way, he'll delight in showing off his knowledge. When he's wrong, don't correct him (or pretend he's right); instead say the correct name in an encouraging tone.

### Books great for Narration Skills!

| Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker | Today is Monday by Eric Carle |
| Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman | Is Your Mama a Llama? By Deborah Guarino |
| If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff | The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister |
| Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathman | I Went Walking by Sue Williams |
| There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a .... | |

### Wordless Picture Books

| The Snowman by Raymond Briggs | Truck by Donald Crews |
| Sidewalk Circus by Paul Fleischman | The Lion & The Mouse by Jerry Pinkney |
| A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka | Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann |
| The Arrival by Shaun Tan | Flotsam by David Wiesner |

Encourage the children to tell you what they know about the different animals in the story. Talk about where you might see the animals. Take out non-fiction books featuring the different animals in the book.

After reading the story once, have the children say the sound the animal makes instead of the animal’s name in the story. (Instead of “Red bird, red bird, what do you see?” Say, “Tweet, tweet, what do you see?”)

Sing the song “Old McDonald” using the animals in the story.

Have the children draw the animals in the story. If you have watercolor paints available have them paint the pictures, just like Eric Carle did!
Here are some song and rhymes about bears.

**Teddy Bear**
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground
Teddy bear, teddy bear, reach 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, go upstairs
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say your prayers
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn out the light
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say goodnight

**Five Little Bears**
One little bear
Wondering what to do
Along came another
Then there were two!
Two little bears
Climbing up a tree
Along came another
Then there were three!
Three little bears
Ate an apple core
Along came another
Then there were four!
Four little honey bears
Found honey in a hive
Along came another
Then there were five!

**Going on a Bear Hunt**
Going on a bear hunt
Gonna catch a big one
I'm not afraid  (shake head no)
What's that up ahead

(shade eyes with hand, look around)

A field:
Can't go around it,
Can't go under it,
Can't go over it
Gotta go through it

(rub hands together)

Continue with:
A lake (swimming motion)
A mud puddle (cup hands together, suction sound)
A tree (climbing motion)
A cave (reaching out in the dark)

What's this? I feel something...
It has a nose, eyes, ears, fur
It's a bear!
RUN!!!

Run away,
Out of the cave (you can see)
A tree (climbing motion)
A mud puddle (suction hands, move fast)
A lake (swimming motion)
A field (rub hands together)

Whew! We're home! I'm not afraid!

**Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?**
*(Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)*

Brown bear, brown bear, What do you see?
I see a red bird, looking at me.

Red bird, red bird, What do you see?
I see a yellow duck, looking at me

Yellow duck, yellow duck, What do you see?
I see a blue horse, looking at me

Blue horse, blue horse, What do you see?
I see a green frog, looking at me

Green frog, green frog, What do you see?
I see a purple cat, looking at me

Purple cat, purple cat, What do you see?
I see a white dog, looking at me

White dog, white dog, What do you see?
I see a black sheep, looking at me

Black sheep, black sheep, What do you see?
I see a goldfish, looking at me.

I named all the colors I know,
Now I know what’s in a rainbow.

**Hibernation Song**
*(Are You Sleeping?)*
Bear is sleeping, Bear is sleeping.
In a cave, in a cave,
I wonder when he’ll come out.
I wonder when he’ll come out.

In the spring, In the spring.