

# Father Bear Comes Home

by Else Holmelund Minarik

Follow the adventures of Little Bear and his friends in this classic story with easy to read text and funny illustrations.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Do any of your family members go fishing on a regular basis?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that bear has a fish on the line?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Father Bear Comes Home*

- log: a section of the trunk of a tree
- sails: go by boat on water
- octopus: a sea animal with eight arms
- whale: a large ocean mammal
- mermaid: a mythical sea creature with the head and upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish
- wise: knowing much from experience
- picnic: a meal taken and eaten outdoors
- shy: timid and easily frightened

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many of you have ever been fishing before? Who did you go fishing with? Did you catch any fish?
- Owl imagined that he had caught a whale. Do you think an owl could really catch a whale?
- Little Bear imagined that he had caught an octopus. What are some other animals that you can think of that live in the sea or the ocean?
- How do you think Little Bear, Hen, Duck and Cat felt when they found out there was no little mermaid?
- Have any of you ever heard the ocean in a sea shell?
- When you get the hiccups, what do you do to make them stop?
- Which character in the book is your favorite? Why?

# Do

## Go Fish!

Cut fish shapes (or a variety of ocean animal shapes) out of various colors of construction paper. Attach a paper clip to each fish. Make a fishing pole by tying string to a short dowel. Attach a small magnet to the end of the string. At group time, present each child with a pole. Place the fish on the floor and allow the children to take turns fishing. As a fish is caught, the child removes it from the magnet and names the color. Repeat until all of the children have had a turn. You can also add numbers or letters to each fish for the children to identify.