

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: Teddy Bears Picnic

Celebrate Playday, the national day for play, with a Teddy Bears Picnic. This year's theme focuses on fun and friendships, making it the perfect occasion to bring children together through engaging activities centred around their beloved teddy bears.

Learning aims

- Develop social skills by engaging in back-and-forth interactions and taking turns in conversations
- Listening and enjoying stories and rhymes, enhancing language skills, rhythmic awareness and fostering a love for reading
- Stimulate curiosity and creativity by encouraging imaginative play and role-playing activities.



Resources

- Teddy bears
- Picnic blankets and cushions
- Decorations, e.g. bunting, banners etc.
- Craft materials, card, elastic, mark-making tools, paper, glue etc.
- Pictures or a variety of different bears for the bear hunt
- Teddy bear themed story books and props
- Picnic blankets and cushions
- Picnic food.

Activity outline

Prior to the activity:

- Send a letter home inviting the children to bring in their teddy for the day
- Provide a variety of craft items and invite children to make their own teddy bear masks or ears
- Transform your outdoor space into an enticing space with fun and engaging teddy bear themed activities for children to explore and enjoy on your picnic day.

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Activities you could enjoy include:

- Teddy bear hunt: Hide small teddy bears or teddy bear pictures around the area. Give each child a checklist and see if they can find all the bears
- Story time: Organize a group story session with a special bear themed book. Use props to bring the story to life, such as if you are using 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears,' use toy bears, bowls, chairs, etc. Encourage children to join in either by holding props or joining in with the story such as tasting the porridge. By involving the children, they become active participants in the story and bring it to life. This facilitates extended conversations and opportunities to introduce new vocabulary through meaningful discussions about the story, the characters, and what happened
- Rhyme time: Have a fun bear themed rhyme time with musical instruments and a parachute. Sing songs like 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around', 'Round and Round the Garden' and 'The Bear Went Over the Mountain'. Use a parachute to bounce the teddy bears up and down, or to hide the bears under
- Picnic time: Involve children in preparing some of the picnic foods such as sandwiches and fruit portions. Enjoy the picnic together and initiate conversations, such as talking about their and their teddy bears' favourite foods and other picnic adventures they may have had.

Extension ideas:

- Take photos and make up your own story about the day the teddy bears visited the nursery. Add this book to your book area so children can revisit the activity and tell the story to their friends
- Share what you have done with parents so they can do the same at home. There are further ideas on the BBC Tiny Happy People website.

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- Activity: [Bring books alive](#)
- Activity: [Make your own story props](#)
- Blog: [Going on a bear hunt ideas](#)
- Online course: [Creative storytelling in the early years.](#)