



# Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

## A Parent's Guide to Using an Experience Box

Experience boxes provide a way for children with limited formal communication skills to share in the experience of literacy while developing vocabulary and concepts. Using real objects or object symbols, children with limited communication skills can explore, match, and share these objects as they refer to the story with others. Experience boxes can be used with children of all ages and abilities.

### **Recommended Lesson Plan**

- Allow your child to first explore the items in the box, let them become familiar with the shapes and textures of the items. Familiarity is important for learning.
- Select Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? on [www.dbcentral.org](http://www.dbcentral.org) – Or choose to read the enclosed book with your child on your own.
- Utilize objects in the experience box to have a conversation about the pictures and the words in the book. Allow your child to handle the object, play with it, learn and come to understand the shapes and textures of the objects. If available, provide a real life example of the item. For example, if there is goldfish at the local pet store, see if you can explore it in some way with your child.
- As you watch the “Story Time Video”, or read the book together, pull objects from the experience box as they are presented in the story. Allow your child to try to find objects that match the pictures and identify objects by practicing vocabulary. Mutually explore the object, if possible, talk, have a conversation about the objects and the story. Remember that touching the object together is a simple conversation.
- Conversation starters
  - Did you like the story?
  - What did you like about the story?
  - What is your favorite object?
  - Did the objects help you understand the story better?
- After the video is finished, continue to talk and interact with the objects. Communicate with your child about the objects throughout your days.
  - For example: What animals did Brown Bear see? What color is the horse? What color is the sky?
  - Practice the vocabulary in other contexts, pointing out the colors as they appear in a variety of ways and shades, point out any animals you see
  - Play a game, “Pamela, Pamela what do you see?” (using your child’s name)

NOTE: The objects in these particular boxes are all SYMBOLS for real items. If you can collect and provide the real and actual item (for example go to the zoo to experience a variety of animals and a vast number of people) the concept will be more understood and broadened to the greater environment.

## A Parent's Guide to Accessing Story Time Videos and Vocabulary

- Log on to [www.dbcentral.org](http://www.dbcentral.org).
- On the right side, click on the "Literacy" tab.
- Scroll down to "DB Central's Story Time Virtual Book Readings".
- Or Select "Vocabulary Slides".
- If your child utilizes sign language or you would like to learn more, select the "Video" of the vocabulary. This video allows for exploration of American Sign Language.

## DB Central Can Help

Project staff are able to schedule a meeting to help brainstorm how to use the experience box with your child and/or to teach them new vocabulary and concepts. Signs can be learned using vision and/or touch.

## When You Are Finished with this Experience Box

Please collect all of the listed items (see back of plastic lid) and place them back into the provided container. Contact DB Central at [dbcen@cmich.edu](mailto:dbcen@cmich.edu) for mail pickup at your front door.