

The children have been busy acting out the story indoors, with a practitioner playing the part of the bear!



Staff and children have worked together to create an eye catching Bear Hunt display, using real grass and photos of the children.



Additionally, children have enjoyed playing hide and seek with soft toys and small bears, and also exploring how to represent the story through mark making (see photo right)

At the time of writing this, Sharan and the team are planning to create a small world version to stimulate further retelling.

Parents have reported that children are talking about the story at home, for example declaring that “we have to go through the mud to see the bear!”



The staff team have found that the story links in well to learning about feelings and as such they have created bear themed emotion masks. These masks are being used to develop the language of emotions as well as build on children’s awareness of their own and others feelings.



## What next?

Happy Valley have found core text planning to be a successful approach to learning and they wish to carry this forward.



The setting will focus next on The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.



Happy Valley is a setting in Bevendean with a high number of funded two year olds and several children with SEND.

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## Narrowing the Word Gap at Happy Valley

Using a core  
text



Happy Valley have been on an extended Bear Hunt and they weren't at all scared! The pre-school setting, headed up by Sharan (Manager) have been focusing on this all-time favourite children's book for a number of weeks, enabling children to become fully immersed in the story.

The children have thrown themselves into shared retellings of the tale - chiming in enthusiastically with the repeated refrains and strong rhythm. Their understanding of the vocabulary has been supported by the use of Makaton.