"Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?"
is one of the most famous questions in children's literature. The story introduces a series of animals asking the same question, "What do you see?" The brown bear answers the question first. The other characters – a red bird, a yellow duck, a blue horse, a green frog, a purple cat, a white dog, a black sheep, a goldfish, a mother and children – answer in turn.

Bill Martin's simple story is a fun way for children to learn about animals and colors. Eric Carle's colorful pictures capture children's attention. This story provides an exciting way to help children learn. The words are so simple that after a few readings, children will be able to "read" the book to parents.
Some Ideas for Reading the Book with Young Children

Pointing to words:
You can point to words as you say them. This helps children learn that words have meaning. And, children will begin to understand that written words can be spoken. Awareness of print and words can be an exciting discovery. Don't worry if younger children do not recognize words. That will come when they are reading. Older children may begin reading by recognizing words.

Prediction:
As you are reading the book, you can ask children what they think will happen next. This lets children use their imagination and problem solving skills. After you and your children have read the book several times, you can try asking what comes next. Predicting what comes next is fun and is a great way to strengthen children's attention span and memory skills.

Before reading the book:
Asking children a few questions before you read the book together can help get them interested.

- Show them the cover of the book and ask what they see.
- Ask what color a duck is.
- Ask what color a frog is.
- Ask if they've seen a purple cat.

After reading the book:
Asking a few questions to children after you read the book can help them think more about the story.

- Ask what the story was about.
- Which animal was their favorite?
- Ask what colors they can see in the room.
- Have them tell the story back to you or reread it together.
Bear Hand Puppet

Make a bear puppet.

- Take a small, paper sack (lunch size).
- Print out the teddy bear puppet picture below.
- Cut bear on outside line.
- Cut the head separate from the body.
- Glue the head to the bottom of the paper bag.
- Glue the body to the lower side of the bag.
- Put in your hand and play!

(Click on the drawing to download a pattern to print out for your own puppet.)
Brown Bear Flannel Board Story

Flannel boards help children retell their favorite stories.

- Print out the sheet of characters below.
- Trace the characters on to a thin sheet of interfacing fabric (such as Pellon).
- Help children color the animals.
- Cut out the pieces.
- Then, glue a 9 x 12 inch sheet of felt to a sturdy piece of card board.
- Have children tell the story in the book by placing the characters on the felt on the pizza box lid.
- Try this idea with other favorite stories.
Teddy Bear Action Song

Sing this song and have children act out the movements:

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, show your shoe.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, go upstairs.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, brush your hair.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn off the light.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say goodnight!
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn around.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch the ground.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, show your shoe.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, go upstairs.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, brush your hair.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn off the light.
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say goodnight!
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You Say?

After reading the story with your children, read it again. This time, encourage your children to answer with the sound the animal in the picture makes.

Example:

"Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?"
Your child answers, "I see a chirp, chirp looking at me!"

Red Bird, Red Bird, what do you see?"
Your child answers, "I see a meow, meow looking at me!"