

Take-Home Teddy Bear



Type: [Projects](#) Skills: [Language & Literacy](#), [Social & Emotional Skills](#)

A Take-Home Teddy Bear is an activity that connects what kids are learning at school and extending that to their home. It's really just a journal that kids and parents take home and write down what they did together during a day. Kids take home a teddy bear (or any stuffed animal) and parents and kids work together to write about what they did with the teddy bear in the journal. You can use any notebook for the journal.



What We Learn

Responsibility

Language development

Early literacy

Children shouldn't think of this activity as homework, and they shouldn't be forced to do it. But the parents are there to facilitate the process. Remember, if the child wants to add aspects to the activity, then they should do it. For example, a child could take pictures of the bear and bring them back to share with the group. This kind of creativity should be encouraged.

Supply List

Teddy bear (or other stuffed animal)

Child-sized backpack

Notebook (or three-ringed binder with paper)

Clothing for stuffed animal (sweaters, pajamas, sunglasses, hat, etc.)

How-To

You'll want to get a medium-sized, genderless teddy bear (or other stuffed animal) for this activity. A backpack, a three ringed binder with blank pages so that the kids can draw about baby bear and parents can write down what kids dictate they want to write in the journal, and a bunch of baby clothes both boys and girls clothing to put in the backpack for the kids to change the bear's clothes. You can include anything like sweaters, sunglasses, swimsuits, pajamas, etc.

First, write down all of the kids names on a list and make sure you write a short note addressed to the parents explaining this open-ended activity.

After the parents have been informed, explain to the kids that they are going to take turns taking the bear home overnight. Tell them that they should write, draw or scribble what they did with the bear.

Each child gets to keep the teddy bear overnight. The next day, the child should bring it back to school and

share their journal entries with the group. Then the child care provider should give the bear to the next child on the list that you made in the beginning. That child should take the bear overnight and do the same thing.

After each child has had a chance to take the home overnight, you can review what each kid did with the teddy bear. Lead a group discussion about the similarities and differences in experiences the children had.

This activity is aimed at preschoolers ages two and a half and older. Younger kids, however, can still partake. They can get to take the bear home overnight and journal if they want to, or simply talk about what they did. For younger kids the focus is not about journaling but they can still be a part of the activity. You can have children draw a picture or describe what a child is doing with the bear. For infants and toddlers, the bear becomes a physical connection between the child care setting and home.

For a child with a language delay, model appropriate language skills. The child care provider should talk to the parent about expectations and have them use appropriate words. Don't expect them to write a lengthy entry – only as much as they want to. Even one word journal entries are fine for kids to do. Don't pressure the kids, but help them to get the language out, in whatever manner they can.