

# WHERE'S LENNY?

## Communicating and Speaking

## Infant-Toddler

This book follows Lenny and his daddy as they play hide and seek around their house. The story lends itself to commenting on the characters actions and supporting exchanges with children.

### CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

### INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

#### COMMUNICATE



#### Children will:

- ◆ Participate in back-and-forth exchanges
- ◆ Communicate about actions happening in the here and now

#### Teachers will:

- ◆ Comment on characters in books

### TEACHING TIP

For young children, communication can look and sound very different from one child to the next. Some children may be using nonverbal communication to show what they want or are focused on. Other children may be practicing vocalizing sounds, or may be using words or sentences to communicate. Whatever stage children are at, you can model communication, expand on children's ideas, and encourage exchanges with children. Over time, these exchanges will increase in length and complexity. Commenting on children's experiences will model the language that they can later use themselves.

### 1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ "This book is called *Where's Lenny?* We're going to watch Lenny play hide and seek and talk about where he might be hiding."

### 2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to comment on what Lenny and his daddy are doing.
- ◆ Encourage children to comment on character's actions (verbally or nonverbally).

### Comment on Characters in Books

**Read:** "Ready or not, here I come!"

**Comment:** "Lenny's Daddy counted to 10 to give Lenny time to hide. I see Lenny is peeking around the corner."

**Encourage:** "What do you think Lenny is doing? What else is happening on this page?"

**Read:** "But it's only Wilbur wagging his tail."

**Narrate:** "Lenny's Daddy didn't find him! Lenny is hiding behind the plant."

**Encourage:** "How do you think Lenny is staying hidden? What do you notice about the dog?"

**Read:** "But it's only Mummy fixing the light."

**Narrate:** "Lenny's Daddy didn't find Lenny in the bathroom, but he found Lenny's Mummy on a ladder."

**Encourage:** "Where's Lenny in this picture? What is he doing?"

### 3. REVIEW

- ◆ "Lenny played hide and seek all around his house. We talked about where he was and what he and his family were doing as we read the book together."

### 4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Throughout your day, comment on experiences you and children are having. Narrate their actions and what you notice to reinforce the importance of language. During a group activity, you may take time to notice and narrate what you see each child engaging in (e.g., "I see (Child) is using the small blocks to stack together. (Child) is looking at these round blocks, I wonder if you'll use those next."). You can also do this during other parts of the day, like Meals (e.g., "(Child) is pointing to the peas. You seem hungry for more! I am going to refill my empty water cup now.").