

This is a sweet story about a bear’s curiosity with autumn and the falling leaves. This book has many features that are characteristic of a book (e.g., front, back, title, pages, and end) and that children can be made aware of.

### CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

### INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

#### COMMUNICATE



#### Children will:

- ◆ Understand function and conventions of print

#### Teachers will:

- ◆ Label specific print features

### TEACHING TIP

In English, books and print are organized in a particular way, and knowing how books ‘work’ is an important discovery for children to make. Explicitly identifying book features is an easy way to boost children’s book smarts. Children who enter kindergarten with print knowledge like this make a much easier transition into formal reading instruction. This boost they have upon school entry tends to last through early elementary school.

### 1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “This book is called *Leaves*. As I read the book, I’m going to show how the book is set up and how it works!”

### 2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Make explicit comments about features of the book, no more than 3 times.

#### Label Specific Print Features

**Comment:** “This is the *front* of the book (*point*). And this is the *back* of the book (*point*). The *front* of the book has the *title*, or the name of the book, on it (*point*). The *title* of this book is *Leaves*.”

**Read:** “Are you okay? He wondered.”

**Comment:** “I’m going to turn the *page*. This *page* (*point*) says, ‘Then ... a red one fell, a yellow one fell,’ and this *page* says, ‘all over his island, the leaves were falling.’”

**Read:** “And he thought, the leaves welcomed him.”

**Comment:** “This is the *end* of the book. It’s the last *page*. The book is finished.”

### 3. REVIEW

- ◆ “The *title* or the name of this book was *Leaves*. We looked at the different parts of the book – the *front*, the *back*, the *pages*, and the *end*.”

### 4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Add blank books to the writing center and invite children to write and illustrate their own stories. Encourage children to include a title for the story as well as their name on the cover. As they work, comment on the book features they include, like adding pages, illustrations, and words. When ready, allow children to display their books and share them with you and their peers.