FLASHLIGHT
Active Exploration

Infant-Toddler

This wordless book follows a child as they explore the night with a flashlight. It encourages the use of tools and looking closely to make observations.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

THINK

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

Children will:

- Show interest and curiosity when exploring new scenes of a book

Teachers will:

- Narrate curiosity and exploration
- Use comments and questions to promote observations

TEACHING TIP

While exploration and discovery are an active pursuit, discovery can also happen while reading books together. When looking through illustrations together, take the opportunity to allow children to explore the page. Encourage observations, questions, and voicing ideas about what children notice. You can support children's natural curiosity by giving space during book readings and pausing to provide children the opportunity to look closer. Shared reading is a great opportunity to slow down and give children time to consider and understand what they're seeing in their own way.

1. INTRODUCE

- "It can be hard to see when it's dark, but flashlights can help us explore at night. Today we're going to read a book called *Flashlight,* and we're going to look closely to explore what there is to see outside at night."

2. READ THE BOOK

- Pause occasionally to narrate the curiosity and exploration of the character.
- Support children's own observations with comments and questions of your own.

Narrate Curiosity and Exploration

Show: The child shining the flashlight on some mice. **Narrate:** "The child is exploring the forest outside of their tent. It looks like they found some animals by shining their flashlight all around." **Support:** "What else do you notice in the dark forest? Do you see any other creatures? What can you see?"	**Show:** The child shining their light on some plants. **Narrate:** "As the child walks around, they see new things to explore. They're noticing some plants growing in the ground." **Support:** "What do you think the child will explore next? What would you shine your flashlight on in this picture?"	**Show:** The owl shining the light on the child and all the animals. **Narrate:** "Wow, some of the animals were curious to use the flashlight too. Look how many plants and animals were living together in the dark forest!" **Support:** "Do you see anything that the child hasn't explored yet in this picture?"

3. REVIEW

- "There is so much to explore outside! The child used their flashlight to find animals, plants, and even decorations and their own tent. I wonder what new things you might notice today when you're exploring inside and outside."

4. KEEP IT GOING

- Give children tools of their own to help focus their active explorations. Whether providing flashlights, magnifying glasses, or binoculars, allow children to explore the possible uses of the materials, and discover their own ways of using them to help them engage with their surroundings. Even something as simple as looking through a paper towel roll can bring children a new perspective and help them engage in their environment in new ways.

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