



How to Hide an Octopus & Other Sea Creatures

by Ruth Heller

Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own.

Conversations will help increase your child’s oral language skills and build their vocabulary. C.A.R. is a conversation starter that you can use with your child any time.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with the book, *How to Hide an Octopus & Other Sea Creatures*.



C.A.R.	Example
<p>C Comment and Wait (count to 5) <i>*Make a comment about what you see on the page.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> Look at these sea creatures.</p> <p><i>Child:</i> I see a fish. One looks different.</p>
<p>A Ask questions and Wait (count to 5) <i>*Ask questions that do not have a “yes/ no” or one-word answer to them.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> What do you think ‘grotesque’ means?</p> <p><i>Child:</i> The fish doesn’t look pretty.</p>
<p>R Respond by adding a little more to the child’s response.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> Yes. Sea creatures do use camouflage as a defense mechanism.</p>



Activities	Parent Tips
<p>Sing a song together: “Have You Ever Seen an Octopus?” sung to the tune of <i>Have You Ever Seen a Lassie?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Have you ever seen an octopus? An octopus, an octopus? Have you ever seen an octopus? Swim this way and that? Swim this way and that way And this way and that way? Have you ever seen an octopus? Swim this way and that?</i></p> <p>*repeat with sea creatures from the story: cuttlefish, sea dragon, decorator crab</p>	<p>While reading this book take time to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Search and find the camouflaged sea creature on each page » Notice the similarities and differences of each habitat » Unpack new words together: grotesque, bizarre, anemone <p>Singing/song repetition can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Encourage creativity and imagination. » Encourage language development through vocal imitation. » Encourage deep breathing allowing more oxygen to the brain.
More Activities	Related Books/Resources
<p>DIY Octopus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Using playdough or clay, create an octopus or another sea creature » Manipulate the playdough or clay by rolling and molding it to the appropriate size and shape » Once the sea creature is dry, encourage final details such as color » Extend this learning by adding a habitat for the sea creature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cave for the octopus • a seaweed nest for the sargassum fish • coral for the butterfly fish <p>Magic Milk Painting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To mimic the ink released from an octopus, setup this experiment with your child. » Materials needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk • Dish soap • Q-tips • Food Coloring • Shallow Plate or bakeware » Fill container with milk » Drop at least two drops of each food color into the milk. Spread the droplets out » Generously dip the Q-tip into the dish soap » Dip the Q-tip into the milk next to a color and watch as the color bursts and mixes with the other colors in the milk 	<p><i>Good Thing You’re Not an Octopus!</i> by Julie Markes</p> <p><i>Inky’s Amazing Escape</i> by Sy Montgomery</p> <p><i>Octopuses!</i> by Laurence Pringle</p> <p><i>Octopus Ink</i> by Kate Shoemaker</p> <p><i>Ocean Life</i> by Jill McDonald</p> <p><i>Octopus Opposites</i> by Stella Blackstone</p> <p><i>The Fearless Octopus</i> by Charlotte Christie</p> <p><i>More Books About Camouflage</i></p> <p><i>Camouflage: Changing to Hide</i> by Bobbie Kalman</p> <p><i>What Color is Camouflage?</i> by Carolyn Otto</p>

