

DEAR PARENTS,



Do you know the Bear family? This year, they've invited several friends to their bear cave to celebrate Christmas together. In this story book, you and your child will get to know the Christmas guests and experience the exciting build up to Christmas with the friends and the Bear family. There's still much to accomplish, so let's get started and go meet the forest friends!

Every day your child will be surprised and enchanted by a small wooden figure behind the calendar door. For each of these, this book includes a short story to read aloud, as well as simple activities involving matching, counting, or looking closely. Every fourth day there is a small game hiding behind the little door that you can play with your child! All games are suitable for 2-3 players. The game material is of course suitable for free play as well.

So get ready – this Advent calendar will definitely make the time until Christmas fly by!
We hope you and your child have lots of fun with the Bear family and their friends,

Your Inventors for Children



Look closely!



Play along!



Count!



Just talk!



Place correctly!

1



BEA THE BEAR'S FAVORITE DRINK



December 1st is finally here. A cold wind is blowing outside, but it's warm and cozy in the bear cave. Bea the Bear looks out of the window full of anticipation. Today, the first guests will arrive for Christmas. Who will be the first to ring the doorbell? Bea has prepared a large jug of delicious cocoa. She likes seasoning this in the winter with a pinch of cinnamon, then it tastes even better! Each guest is given a cup when they arrive. Mmmmm, it tastes so good! And it warms you up, too!

What's your favorite drink? And where does Bea's spotted cocoa cup sit? Place Bea the Bear on the orange cushion by the cup.

2



FINN THE BAT

Last night, the Bat family arrived in the bear cave. Flying through the cold night with its icy winds was quite exhausting! Now everyone has found a cozy spot on the ceiling and is resting. Finn is the only one who isn't – he's full of beans! After all, there's so much to discover in the bear cave... While he's flying around, he meets Bea. They haven't seen each other for a long time and have so much to talk about.



Place Finn the Bat next to Bea the Bear. Together they look up: How many bats are hanging upside down from the ceiling? Count them.

EMILIA THE SQUIRREL



This is Emilia the Squirrel. In the summer, she collected lots of nuts and acorns for the cold winter months and hid them in safe places. In winter, a thick layer of snow often covers the forest floor. It's not so easy to find all the hiding places again. That's why Emilia has to try hard to remember where she hid them or sniff out the nuts with her smart nose. Luckily, she collected more than enough food, so it's not so bad if she can't find some of her hiding places.

*Where did Emilia bury her acorns this year?
Find the hiding place on the picture.*

A MAGIC RECIPE



Wickie the Raccoon loves Bea's welcome cocoa. "Hey Bea," asks Wickie the Raccoon, "will you tell me the recipe for your cocoa? It's so deliciously festive!" "Sure, Wickie! Come on, I'll show you how I make it," says Bea happily. Together they mix all the ingredients and make a jug full of special cocoa. "So, now just sprinkle a pinch of cinnamon on top, and the cocoa is ready!" says Bea. "That was quick and really easy," says Wickie happily, "who wants a cup? Come and get one!" He proudly pours a cup of cocoa for the other forest animals.

Find Wickie the Raccoon and place two animals in a line in front of him. First to arrive is a red animal and then a gray animal.

"Now that you've all had an energy boost, you can help me with the cooking," calls out Daddy Bear. "The mushrooms need to be cleaned and the carrots chopped."

*Who will chop the carrots?
Place your carrot on the chopping board.*

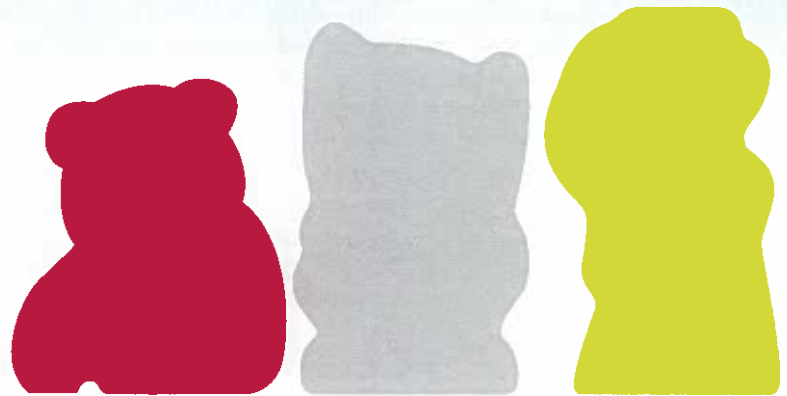


A DAY ON THE ICE



This morning, the first rays of sunshine tickled Bea on her bear nose and she woke up early. After breakfast, she, Finn, and Rabia the Fawn are talking about what they might do today. Rabia has a good idea, "There's a small lake nearby that's already frozen. We can go ice skating there!" "Oh yes," cries Bea excitedly, "I want to do that, too!" Only Finn doesn't seem so enthusiastic. When Rabia asks him if he wants to come along, he answers quietly, "I've never been ice skating before. My wings will probably get in the way." "No, your wings are perfect: If you lose your balance, you can simply flutter up into the air. So you'd never fall down!" says Bea. "Okay, I can try it." The three of them set off with a backpack full of food supplies. They stay by the lake all day long. When they return to the bear cave in the evening, Finn proudly tells his siblings: "I can ice skate now! And I didn't fall down even once!"

To help steady Finn, Bea and Rabia go on either side of him and the three friends skate across the lake together. Place the three animals on the matching shapes.



A RACE

6

The forest children played outside all day long. Daddy Bear calls them into the bear cave for dinner. The friends race to be the first to arrive at the stove.

The expanded part of the calendar is the game board. A path of cushions leads from the doormat to the finish line, the stool in front of the stove. Each cushion is a space.

Before you get started:

Place one wooden figure on the doormat per child. This is the starting space. Have the die ready.

Here we go:

The youngest child begins and rolls the die. How many spots does the die show? Move your figure forward by this number of cushion spaces. More than one figure can be placed on one space. Then the next child in a clockwise direction takes their turn rolling the die.

End of the game:

The game ends when a child reaches the stool in front of the stove and wins. Extra die points are forfeited.

7

MOUSE ADVENTURES

For a little mouse, the journey from the mousehole to the bear cave takes quite a long time. Mika the Mouse was on the road for three days before he finally arrived at the Bear family home. That's why he packed a lot of luggage with him for the trip. Now he tells the curious little animals what happened to him on his journey. "The first day was wonderful! The sun was shining, and I made good progress. I wasn't alone in the beginning either, because my old friend, Rolf the Reindeer, accompanied me on his skis. But he had to turn right at the large oak tree because his family lives in the far north. Rolf wants me to share his greetings with everyone. Shortly after I turned left at the oak tree something unbelievable happened..."

What happened to Mika? Place him on the carpet with his friends and tell his story. What did he take with him on his sleigh?



8

1 2 3

DADDY BEAR AND THE CHEESE WOOL

Mommy Bear often has cold ears in winter. Unfortunately, she is a little bit scatterbrained and lost her hat while collecting mushrooms. But Daddy Bear has an idea how he can solve this problem. As soon as everyone is asleep, he sneaks off to Eva the Owl. "Good evening, Eva," he whispers, "I need your help!" "Help with what, Daddy Bear?" answers Eva. "Can you please teach me how to knit? I'd like to knit a new hat for Mommy Bear this Christmas!" "We can do that! I think we'll need four balls of wool. Have you thought about what color hat you'd like to knit?" "Not yet. Let's look in the wool basket together," Daddy Bear suggests to the Owl. Eva flies to the basket and starts to giggle. "Daddy Bear, someone has pulled a prank!"

What did Eva discover in the wool basket? Place your wooden piece in the right place. Of which color are there exactly three balls of wool in the basket? Count them.



FUN WITH STRIPES

9



In winter, it can be unpleasant outside. Hanna the Hare knows that, too. When she hops over the fields in December and the wind blows through her fur, she sometimes gets quite cold. Hand-knitted ear-warmers and a thick scarf can help. She likes knitting scarves with colorful stripes best. When it's particularly frosty, Hanna likes to put on her red and white striped scarf. It reminds her of the lighthouses she saw while on vacation by the sea. But her favorite scarf is her orange and green one. It reminds her of her favorite food - carrots! And it's these that she's busy chopping now for the vegetable stew.

Place Hanna next to the chopping board. She's not the only one who likes striped patterns: Who is wearing orange and red striped socks?

IN THE STORE CUPBOARD

10

On their invitations to the Christmas celebration, the Bear family wrote that every guest should bring one of their favorite foods. Carrots, a large piece of cheese, and various nuts have already arrived with the first guests – the store cupboard is gradually filling up. Mmm, how good that smells! It will make a great feast on Christmas Eve. Mika and Rabia want to bake delicious gingerbread, too. But oh dear, where is the honey? "Finn, can you help us find it?" asks Mika. They're in luck – Finn discovers the large pot of honey at the very back of the store cupboard. Now Mika and Rabia can start baking. Finn is already looking forward to eating the dough.

Which animal has brought which favorite food for the store cupboard? Place the food next to the correct wooden figure.
(Solution: squirrel-hazelnut, mouse-cheese, hare-carrot).



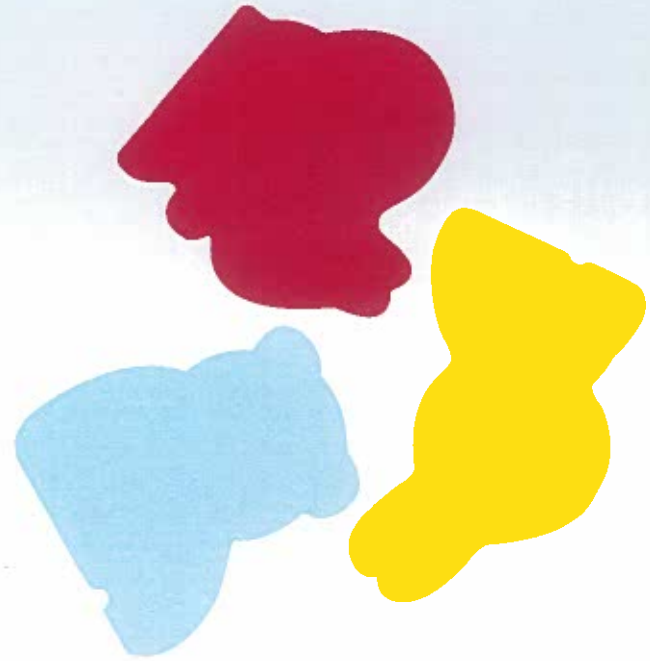
11

CHRISTMAS STORIES



Milo the Mole loves to read and has brought lots of books with him. When the forest friends have eaten their dinner, Mommy Bear lights the fire and everyone makes themselves comfortable together. Then Milo climbs into the big armchair and opens one of his thick Christmas books. When he starts reading aloud, everyone becomes quiet as a mouse and listens with anticipation. Their favorite is the story in which Christmas was almost cancelled because the gifts got lost in the forest. Luckily everything ends well because all the forest animals help and, together, save Christmas. Milo usually reads until everyone else has fallen asleep. Then he quietly closes the book and snuggles up with his friends.

What stories do you like? Some of the forest friends fall asleep snuggled up together on the carpet. Place the three matching animals on the outlines.



COLORFUL HUSTLE AND BUSTLE IN THE BEAR CAVE

12



The more guests arrive, the more colorful things get in the bear cave. Red, blue, yellow, and something orange here – there's plenty to discover! Which colors do you know?

Before you get started:

Place any eight figures and have the colored die ready.

Here we go:

The player who is most colorfully dressed starts and rolls the colored die. Which color does the die show? Look for something in the bear cave that's the same color!

Correct: Fantastic, good job! You get a figure as a reward.

Incorrect: Too bad, maybe it'll work out better next time.

Important: If the same color is rolled several times, players have to keep finding something new in the bear cave. Then the next child in a clockwise direction takes their turn rolling the die.

End of the game:

The game ends when all the figures have been handed out. The child with the most figures wins. In the event of a tie, these players win together.



13

WILMA LUCIA

Today is December 13 – St. Lucia's Day. Wilma the Wild Boar has been waiting a long time for this day, as she has been elected as Lucia of the Forest. Dressed as Lucia, she is allowed to bring the light to the forest friends today. Wilma sneaks into the kitchen on quiet trotters and prepares breakfast. She then puts on her crown of lights, takes the breakfast tray, and proudly strides over to the sleeping animals. She starts singing the Lucia song and with each word her voice becomes stronger. Everyone slowly wakes up to the beautiful singing, flickering candlelight, and delicious smell of breakfast. "Oh how beautiful it looks," says Mommy Bear. "And how delicious it smells," adds Daddy Bear. "I'd say we eat breakfast right here, since it's here already," Bea suggests. "Oh yes, that will be cozy," Finn says, and cuddles up with the others under the warm blanket. "Then enjoy your breakfast," Wilma says to her friends and is very happy.

What do you like to eat for breakfast? Place Wilma next to the teapot on the stove.

14

LINUS THE LYNX

Linus the Lynx has been given the special task of decorating the Christmas tree. For this, Daddy Bear brings the box with the Christmas decorations out from under the bed. But oh no, he suddenly trips over a strip of tinsel that has fluttered out of the box. He tumbles and with a loud thud he falls onto his bottom. Unfortunately, a few ornaments are also broken. "Oh no, what can I decorate the tree with now?" asks Linus with tears in his eyes. "Some of the ornaments have survived," Bea says, trying to comfort him. "And for the rest, I'm sure we'll find other beautiful things here in the bear cave!" "I can show you how to make heart pendants," suggests Eva the Owl. Together they get to work. Soon they are finished, and everyone agrees; it's the most beautiful tree they've ever had! Linus is happy after all and is pleased that they've done so well.

Place Linus in front of the Christmas tree. How many hearts and how many ornaments are there? Count them. Which item is normally found in the bathroom, not on the Christmas tree?



SO MANY SHOES



15



It has been pouring with rain since the early hours of the morning and simply won't stop. Nobody wants to go out because it's cold, windy, and wet. "I'm sooo bored!" moans Emilia the Squirrel, and the others nod in agreement. "You can help tidy up," says Daddy Bear with a smile. "It's a real mess in here. You can hardly get in the door with all your shoes." "We're happy to do that!" cries Wicki the Raccoon. The other little animals look at him in surprise. "We'll play a game," Wicki explains. "I'll hold up a pair of shoes one after the other and you have to guess who they belong to. We can have fun and tidy up at the same time!" The others like the idea. Who would have thought so many different shoes could come together! Everyone enjoys guessing whose shoes are whose and Daddy Bear is happy that it's a tidier in the bear cave again.

Place Wicki next to the shoes. Which animals do the little green shoes, the small yellow shoes, and the shoes with the carrots belong to? And who could the rest of the shoes belong to?



A WILD SNOWBALL FIGHT

16

1 2 3

Overnight the weather turned cold again. The raindrops have turned into millions of small snowflakes. The forest looks as if someone has sprinkled it with sugar icing and there is a gentle calm. But the silence doesn't last long, because all the little animals run outside after breakfast. "Hey, how about a snowball fight?" shouts Suri the Dormouse. The first snowball flies through the air and it lands on Suri's puffy tail. Suri quickly makes a ball from the snow and throws it back. Linus hides behind a tree and Emilia quickly makes several small snowballs. In no time, a wild snowball fight is underway. The friends enjoy hours of fun as they romp around in the powdery snow.

Two groups have formed in the snowball fight: All the blue animals are in one group, all the red animals are in the other. Sort the wooden figures into the groups. Which group is bigger?



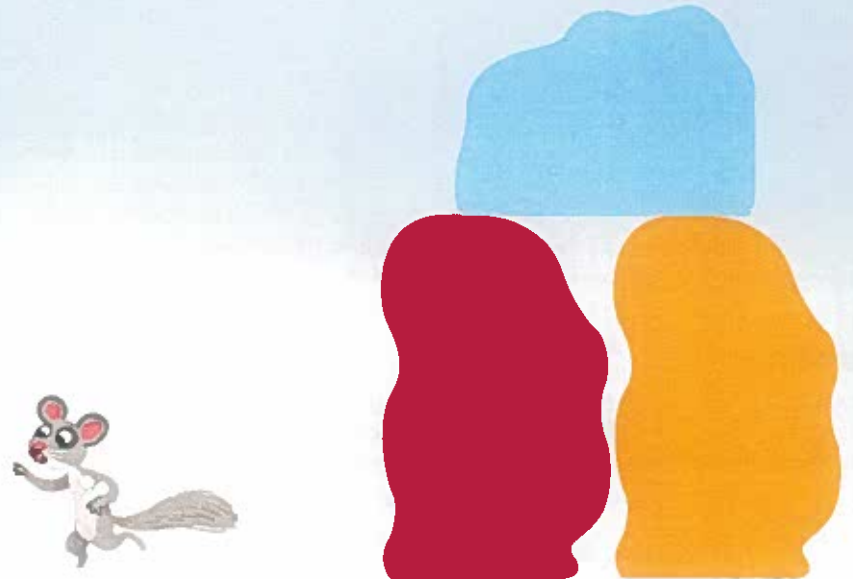
17



FIND THE PICKLE

Donna the Badger has heard of a fun tradition from her relatives. In some countries, a pickle is hung on the Christmas tree. Because it's just as green as the tree itself, it's difficult to see. The first one to find the pickle at Christmas, wins a small reward. Donna and Suri are excited about this custom and want to hang a pickle on the Christmas tree. While everyone else sleeps, they sneak into the store cupboard along with Milo the Mole. There, they fish out a particularly crunchy pickle from a jar. Now all they have to do is thread the pickle at one end and hang it on the tree. The three friends give each other a leg-up and find the perfect place. Done!

Can you find the pickle on the Christmas tree? Stack the three wooden figures on top of each other in front of the Christmas tree, as shown here, so that the three friends can reach the pickle.



MEALTIME

18

Some of the animals have now brought along a wide variety of dishes and delicacies. Hard-working paws have set and decorated the dining table, and it is filling up. Help the little animals to dish up the food.

The unfolded part of the calendar is the game board. The colorful cushions are the running spaces.

Before you get started:

Have the four foods carrot, cheese, acorn, and baked apple ready, as well as the number die. Place any animal figure on the doormat.

Here we go:

The player who last helped to set the table at home starts and rolls the die. How many spots does the die show? Move the figure forward by this number of cushion spaces. Has the figure landed on a cushion of the same color as the plate in front? Then you may place any food on the plate. Only one food item may be placed on each plate.

Important: You don't have to move forward all the spaces and can stop when you reach a cushion with a matching plate.

Then the next child in a clockwise direction takes their turn rolling the die.

End of the game:

Have you put all the food on the table and made it to the stove? Then you've all won together.

Variation:

You play against each other, rather than together. To do this, you each get one animal figure and one food item. You can place the food on any plate you like. Only one food item may be placed on each plate. The first player to arrive at the stove without food wins the game.



19
1²3

FRIDOLIN THE FROG



Fridolin the Frog is celebrating Christmas for the first time this year. He is already very excited and asks the other animals many questions. "Eva the Owl, what do you like most about Christmas?" "Hmm, Fridolin, that's a difficult question," Eva answers. "I love seeing all my friends and spending a nice time together." Wicki was listening, too. "That's right. But the best thing about Christmas is the food! So many to choose from and so many delicious desserts, I don't know where to start!" Fridolin and Eva laugh. "You do have a sweet tooth," says the Owl with a smile. Now Fridolin is not only looking forward to the celebration, but also to the food. How will it taste?

Place Fridolin at the table. How many desserts are on the table? And how many cocoa cups can you find in the bear cave? (5)

20

FRIEDA THE FOX



Every evening, Frieda the Fox, Wanda the Wolf, Fridolin the Frog, and Mika the Mouse meet behind the big sledding hill and practice Christmas songs. They want to surprise the other animals at Christmas with a concert. That's why recently there's been so much croaking, humming, and howling in the evenings. However, the friends haven't been able to agree on which songs to sing. "I definitely want to sing the song about all of the stars!" says Wanda. "But I like 'O Christmas Tree' much better!" argues Mika. "I don't think we have to choose between the two songs," says Frieda, trying to settle the argument. "If the other guests like our singing, we can probably all sing our favorite songs!" Fridolin suggests "Let's just let the audience decide which song to start with." Everyone agrees with this, so they settle back into their croaking, humming, and howling.

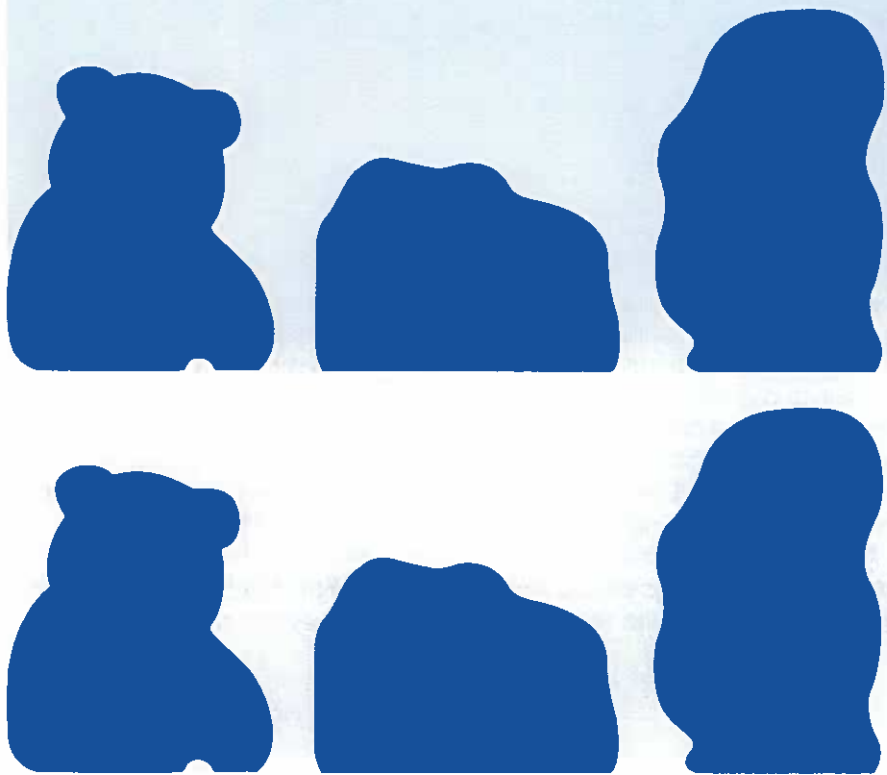
Which Christmas songs do you know? Place Frieda the Fox, Fridolin the Frog, and Mika the Mouse with Wanda the Wolf so that they can sing together.

SNOW ANIMALS

21

Boris the Beaver has arrived today. He is so happy about the beautiful snow that he makes a snow angel right away. To do this, he lays down on his back in the snow and moves his arms and legs back and forth. "It really looks like an angel, great!" cries Frieda the Fox and suddenly has an idea: "Shall we play 'guess the snow animal'?" Everyone is immediately excited and throws themselves into the snow. After they get up again, the friends look at the shapes they have made. "Whose is whose?" asks Emilia. "This is mine," says Wickie, pointing to a shape in the snow. "No, that's mine!" Bea says, correcting him. Before an argument breaks out, Boris says: "I think you both have a very similar shape!" "Oh, I wouldn't have thought that! Do other shapes look similar, too?" Bea wonders.

Turn all the figures over to the unprinted side. Can you find a figure for each shape? Place the wooden figures on the matching shapes.



22

RIBBON GAME

Christmas is approaching and the final preparations need to be made. Eva the Owl, Rabia the Fawn, and Fridolin the Frog want to surprise the Bear family. Rabia has wrapped a gift in paper, Fridolin holds the roll with the ribbon, and Eva wraps the ribbon around the gift. The ribbon is quite long, so the three of them are curious how long it is in total!

Place the three animals next to the unrolled ribbon in the bear cave. Which is longer? The ribbon or the three animals?



23

IGOR THE HEDGEHOG

Igor the Hedgehog usually cooks with his mom in the "Golden Mushroom" forest restaurant. They close the restaurant at Christmas so they can spend time with their friends. Their friends are happy that Igor wants to take care of the Christmas dinner. The whole cave smells heavenly, because Igor has been wielding the wooden spoon, rattling pot lids, and adding wood to the stove for some time now. There's going to be beetroot with mushroom dumplings for starters and a Christmas stew as the main course. The dessert is already prepared. Everyone helped and we tried making many different recipes: Sweet bread, tree cake, and pudding are just a small selection from the delicious feast, which also includes all the food the guests brought. But until it's time for dinner, there's still plenty for Igor to do in the kitchen. While he's looking for other ingredients in the store cupboard, he discovers a tired guest.

Who's having a nap on the shelf? Place Igor on the stool in front of the stew so that he can stir it well. What do you like to eat at Christmas?



The Forest Animals are very excited, because tomorrow Christmas will finally be here! But they must be patient until the celebrations begin. To distract themselves, they play hide and seek. Can you find out which animal is hiding behind which figure?

Before you get started:

Place all the animal figures in the middle with the picture facing down. Have the color die ready.

Here we go:

The youngest child begins and rolls the die. Say out loud which color you rolled.

Now point to a wooden figure in the same color.

Are there no figures left in the color rolled? Then you can choose a color. Say it out loud and then point to a wooden figure in the alternative color chosen.

Which animal could be hiding on the opposite side? Think and then name an animal out loud.

Now turn the figure over. Did you guess correctly?

Yes? Great. You may take the wooden figure.

No? Too bad. Turn the animal over again so that it's face-down. Then the next child in a clockwise direction takes their turn.

End of the game:

The game ends when a child has four animals in front of them and wins.

You did a great job! When the little animals return to the cave, it's already evening. Tired from all the playing and full of excitement, the little animals quickly go to sleep. The next morning, they are anxious to get out of their beds. The gifts are stacked under the Christmas tree. Because everyone is looking for their gift, there's quite a scramble. Linus the Lynx is the first to find the pickle in the Christmas tree, so he gets a small extra gift. The table has now been set as well. It's covered with plenty of delicious, fragrant food waiting to be eaten by hungry guests. They all sing and laugh, and everyone is very happy. "What a wonderful Christmas!" exclaims Bea Bear. "Let's toast it with a delicious cup of Christmas cocoa!"

*Dear children, parents, relatives, friends, and acquaintances!
We wish you all a merry and peaceful Christmas
Your Inventors for Children*



My First Games Advent Calendar

Christmas in the Bear Cave

The Bear family has invited their friends to an unforgettable Christmas in the bear cave. But there's still so much to be done before they can sit and celebrate around the Christmas tree! You'll need to search, sort, stack, and count to make sure everything is done in time. Exciting adventures await the children every day: They'll immerse themselves in a world of winter imagination with little games and tasks for precise observation, early counting, and arranging. Additional short stories let the pre-Christmas wait fly by.

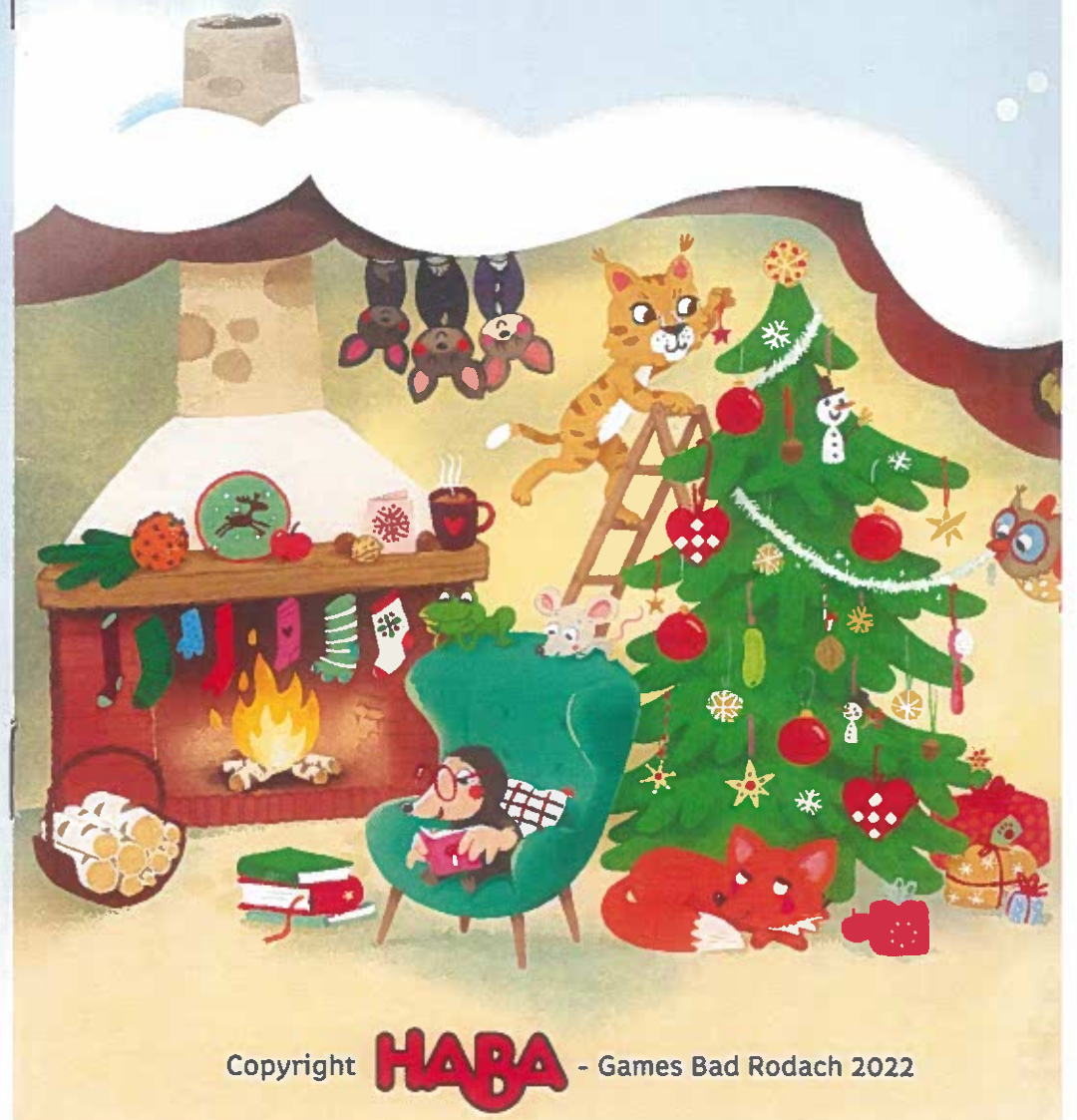
Behind the 24 little doors are lovingly designed play materials. It allows the children to playfully master and experience the games and tasks included in the Advent Calendar.

Contents: 1 story book with 24 short stories, games and tasks, 22 wooden figures, 2 dice, 1 3D play backdrop

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