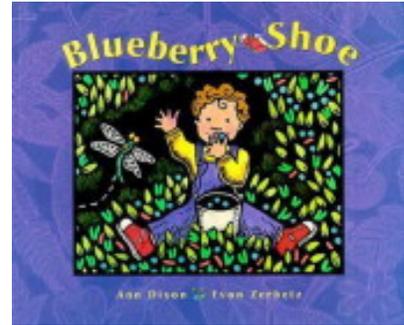




Goldbelt Heritage Foundation

Kashudcha "Drink from the vessel of Traditional Knowledge."



Blueberry Shoe

By Ann Dixon Illustrations by Evon Zerbetz

Book Summary While his family picks berries on Ptarmigan Mountain, Baby loses a shoe. The family searches for it in vain; however, the shoe is not really lost, at least not to a vole who makes a nest in it or a foraging bear who unknowingly turns the shoe into a planter for a blueberry seed. The following summer, when the family returns to the mountain, Baby, now a toddler, discovers a blueberry plant sprouting in his shoe and proudly takes it home, later becoming "the first to pick a single ripe berry, a very sweet ripe berry, from his beautiful blueberry shoe."

Before Reading Talk with your child about berry picking. Talk about where you pick and at what time of year. Look at the cover of *Blueberry Shoe* with your child. If he/she has not previously heard this book, ask him/her to predict what the book might be about. Accept and talk about any reasonable prediction.

During Reading This book has interesting words that many children may not have heard. While reading, stop and check to make sure your child understands new words. For example, "mossy hummocks", "weary", "gnawed", "scurried", "fluttered", "yipped", "curious", "morsel", "withered" and "brimful" are words that many children will not know. The story and your conversation will help your child understand word meaning.

After Reading Talk about the story; ask your child to retell events in the story. Younger children may retell a few events while older children should retell many events in order and with greater detail. This not only helps your child remember the story, but also encourages him/her to use new words heard. These are school expectations for children of all ages. Often children ask you to read the book again and again; rereading builds understanding, retelling and vocabulary and it's fun!

Parent guide for *Blueberry Shoe*, a suggested parent read-aloud intended to accompany "Berries" cultural curriculum unit.

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