

PRIMARY 1M

Mungo's bear was not very good at sums. Or at reading. Or at writing. Or indeed at gym or drawing. In fact, Mungo's bear was not very good at anything which was done at school. Quite unlike Mungo, who was quite good at most things which were done at school.

'Bear', said Mungo one day to his bear, 'Bear, you will have to learn how to be good at things which are done at school.'

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

'Now the first thing you must learn,' said Mungo to his bear, 'Is sums. What do one and one make?'

There was a long pause. Mungo's bear thought and thought and scratched his head and thought. Mungo looked at him encouragingly, then held up one finger and another finger, then mouthed the word "two" to his bear.

'Well, bear,' said Mungo after about three days, 'The answer to one and one is two. Two.'

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

'Now the next thing you will learn for being good at things which are done at school,' said Mungo to his bear, 'Is

reading. You will now read this story aloud.'

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

Mungo gave his bear a small book to read. It did not have many words in it, mostly pictures. But the words were very easy: CAT, DOG, TREE, BEAR and so on. Mungo's bear took the book in his paws and studied it long and hard. After a few minutes, he turned the first page. And spent a long time looking at the second page. Mungo waited and waited. Mungo's bear turned the page again, but still said nothing.

Mungo sighed and looked over his bear's round shoulder. 'Let me help you along,' he said. "'THE CAT SITS

ON THE DOG''' Now you try -
"THE"

'THE', said Mungo's bear.

'CAT', said Mungo.

'CAT', said Mungo's bear.

'SITS', said Mungo.

'SITS', said Mungo's bear.

'ON', said Mungo.

'ON', said Mungo's bear.

'THE', said Mungo.

'THE', said Mungo's bear.

Mungo waited for the last word.

Mungo's bear studied the page

intently. After a week, he turned the

page without having said anything else.

Mungo sighed: 'I think we'll stop
reading now'.

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

'Now a most important thing you will learn for being good at things which are done at school,' said Mungo to his bear, 'Is writing. You will now write your name on this piece of paper.'

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

Mungo gave his bear a large piece of paper, which already had some interesting words written on it, and a stubby pencil.

Mungo's bear took the pencil and held it above the paper.

After a while, Mungo said: 'Now you can write your name'

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

The bear did not move. After a day or so, Mungo took the pencil and wrote a

large letter 'B'. Then he gave the pencil back to his bear.

'Now "E",' he said.

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

After another couple of days, Mungo's bear put down the pencil and sighed.

Mungo said: 'I think we'll stop writing now'.

'OK,' agreed Mungo's bear.

'Now a most interesting thing you will learn which is done at school,' said Mungo to his bear, 'Is gym. You will now follow me in some exercises'.

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

Mungo began to do stretches and hops and bunny-jumps and bouncy exercises. Mungo's bear watched with

great interest. Mungo's bear even stood up and clapped.

'Now you,' suggested Mungo to his bear.

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

Mungo's bear raised his arms a bit. Then he stood awhile and thought deeply. Then he sat down.

'Gym is very tiring,' said Mungo's bear.

'OK,' said Mungo.

'Bear', said Mungo at last to his bear, 'Bear, you are good at very many things, like keeping me company and listening and sitting about usefully. So I don't think you will have to learn

how to be good at things which are done at school.'

'OK,' said Mungo's bear.

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