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Oliver Finds His Way

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Little Oliver is playing outside while Mama and Papa bear work at fall tasks. Oliver is distracted by a blowing yellow leaf and gives chase into the forest. Deeper and deeper he runs until he realizes that he is lost. Alone and afraid little Oliver begins to cry, but then he realizes that he needs to get it together. What can he do to find his way back home? He roars and roars again until he hears an answering roar in the distance. Following the roars of his parents, Oliver is able to find his way back to familiar ground and to his loving parents.

This is a wonderful story to open a conversation with children about what to do when you are lost. Oliver is distracted by a colorful leaf that is blowing in the breeze just like all children can be distracted by colorful and interesting things in public places. All children are lost at one time or another and they will relate to Oliver’s sudden understanding of what it feels like to be alone and afraid when you don’t know where your parents are. As you read this book, let them share those feelings and emotions. Then, with Oliver, remind them that when they feel that way they should take a moment to calm down before deciding what to do. Oliver roars. Other solutions might be designating a meeting place, asking an adult for help, or finding a security person. This adorably illustrated story can act as a key to help parents keep their children safe in scary situations.