

The Ohio Literacy Resource Center



What is Family Literacy?

Family Literacy recognizes parents as the child's first teacher. Family Literacy is the way parents and family members use literacy at home and in their communities to accomplish various tasks in their daily lives. Parents have many opportunities to help their children improve their literacy skills. When parents work with their children on literacy activities, the children perform better in school. These activities can be easy and fun; for example reading books and talking about them with children or having them help write out a grocery list.

Ohio Literacy Resource Center

The Ohio Literacy Resource Center (OLRC), located at Kent State University, originated as a result of the National Literacy Act of 1991. The OLRC is funded primarily through the Ohio Department of Education Division of Career-Technical and Adult Education, the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute for Literacy. OLRC staff also work closely with state agencies, professional organizations, literacy coalitions, public libraries, and a wide variety of adult literacy providers.

The OLRC's mission is to stimulate joint planning and coordination of literacy services at the local, regional and state levels; to enhance the capacity of state and local organizations and service delivery systems to provide adult literacy services; to serve as a reciprocal link between the National Institute for Literacy and service providers for the purpose of sharing information, data, research, expertise and literacy resources.

The OLRC has developed some fun literacy activities to share with your family-

ENJOY!

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Enhancing Adult Literacy in Ohio

<http://literacy.kent.edu>



Family Literacy

Winter Fun



Snow Family

by Daniel Kirk, Hyperion Books for Children, New York, 2000

Description of book:

A group of young, carefree snowmen roam the countryside looking for adventure. A young boy and his dog go with the snowmen for a day. The boy realizes that the young snowmen do not have parents to care for them. At the end of the story, the boy makes parents for the snowmen.

Activity:

Create a felt snowman

Materials:

- Felt (white, black, blue, orange, red, brown)
- Glue
- File folder or cardboard



Instructions:

- Read *Snow Family* together
- Explain that we can make a snowman indoors
- Start by gluing the two large pieces of blue felt to the inside cover of a file folder or piece of cardboard
- Parents cut out different sized circles of white felt to make the snowman body
- Parents cut out snowman accessories using the different colors of felt (try also to make these accessories in different shapes if possible... oval eyes, rectangle mouth, cone-shaped hat, hexagon buttons, etc.)
- Flip through the book and if you can, try to make them look like some of the snowmen children from the book.
- Make the felt snowman. You have enough pieces to make two snowmen. See how many different ones you can make.

Things to think and talk about:

- Talk about the characters in the book.
- Talk about the differences in the snowmen and how they can be different just like people can be.
- Children make as many different snowmen as you can with the different shapes and accessories.
- Sort felt pieces by shape, color, size, curved lines and straight lines.

Other books on this topic

- *Snow Day* by Betsy Maestro
- *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs
- *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel
- *Boot Weather* by Judith Vigna
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *Old Winter* by Judith Benet Richardson
- *Welcome to the Ice House* by Jane Yolen
- *Snow Riders* by Constance W. McGeorge
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Snow* by Uri Shelevitz
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MUSIC and MOVEMENT

Snowman, Snowman

-Courtesy of:

<http://atozteacherstuff.com/themes/winter.shtml>

-Sung to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*

Snowman, snowman, where did you go
I built you yesterday out of snow
I built you high-I built you fat
I put on eyes a nose and a hat
Now you're gone— all melted away
Now it's sunny, I'll go out and play

Get Your Nose On

-By Kenan J. Bishop

-Sung to the tune of "Allstar" by Smashmouth

-Based on *Snow Family* by Daniel Kirk

Hey now, you're a snowman
Get your nose on, go play
"Careful" says the sparrow
"You better play safe..."
Don't start teasing the bear
If you wake him up, you have to run out of there...

Bear Hunt

-Classic Action Chant Going on a Bear Hunt retold by Kenan J. Bishop

(Child repeats every line)

(Parent and child do all movements together)

Going on a bear hunt
I'm not afraid
I've got my trusty camera
And my film on my side
Hey look
There's snow on the ground
I can't go over it
I can't go under it
I can't go around it
I better go through it
Scrunch, scrunch, scrunch...
Faster
Scrunch, scrunch, scrunch...
Faster
Scrunch, scrunch, scrunch...
Faster
Whew, that was exhausting.

Going on a bear hunt
I'm not afraid
I've got my trusty camera
And my film on my side
Hey look
There's a tree
I can't go over it
I can't go under it
I can't go around it
I guess I'd better climb it
Heave-ho, Heave-ho, Heave-ho.
Faster
Heave-ho, Heave-ho, Heave-ho.
Whew, I made it.

Wow... From up here I can see
everything

Hey look

There's a Frozen Lake

I better climb down from here
Ho-heave, Ho-heave, Ho-heave.
Faster
Ho-heave, Ho-heave, Ho-heave.
Faster
Ho-heave, Ho-heave, Ho-heave.
Faster
OK... Catch my breath. (Inhale)

Going on a bear hunt
I'm not afraid
I've got my trusty camera
And my film on my side

There's the Lake
It's frozen
I can't go over it
I can't go under it
I can't go around it
I guess I'll have to ice skate
across it
Take off my book bag
Take out my ice skates
Lace them up
Tuck in the strings
OK, let's go.
Swoosh, swoosh, figure 8, twirl.
Faster
Swoosh, swoosh, figure 8, twirl.
Faster
Swoosh, swoosh, figure 8, twirl.
Faster
Whew, that was exhausting.
Catch my breath.
OK, let's go.

Going on a bear hunt
I'm not afraid
I've got my trusty camera
And my film on my side
Hey look!
Shhhhhhhhhh... Not so loud.
What's that?
Over there...
Looks like a cave.
Looks dark
Want to go in?
OK, let's go.
Quietly...
Tip-toe, tip-toe, shhhhhhhh...
This camera is getting heavy
Tip-toe, tip-toe, shhhhhhhh...
I'm getting kind of sleepy
Tip-toe, tip-toe, shhhhhhhh...
I've had a busy day

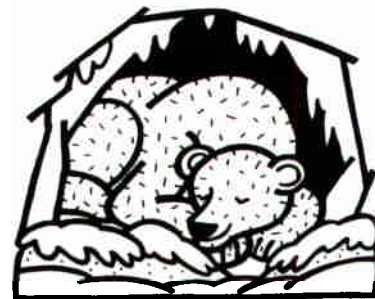
Hey look
It's a big, comfy, fuzzy, couch.
I think I might take a little nap
I have to stretch.
And 1 and 2 and 3
And 1 and 2 and 3
And 1 and 2 and 3

Let's just lay down on this couch
Hey the couch is moving
This is no couch.
It's a bear...

(Do all movements really fast)

I'm getting out of here,
Grab my pack
Stretch (i.e. and 1, and 2, and 3)
Run out of the cave
Ice skate back across the frozen lake
Climb the tree
Run through the snow
Get back in the door...
Whew, I am safe...

Wait a minute.
It's winter.
Bears hibernate in the winter
I could have stayed and slept on that fuzzy couch.



Math and Science/Nature

Sorting

Materials:

- Different sizes and shapes of foam or felt snowmen parts and accessories

Directions:

- Sort the pieces into categories of small, medium or large
- Sort the shapes into categories such as triangles, pentagons, hearts, stars, circles, shapes with rounded edges, shapes with straight edges, etc.

Measuring snow

Materials:

- Snow on the ground outside
- A stick or pole of some type that you don't mind drawing a line on
- Yardstick, ruler, or tape measure
- Paper to write your measurements on

Directions:

- Put the date on your paper
- When the snow is fairly deep outside, place your stick or pole into the snow. Mark on the stick how deep the snow is.
- Bring the stick inside and measure the depth of the snow with your ruler
- Continue recording the measurements on your paper every other day to measure the snow accumulation or melting over a period of time

Melting snow

Materials:

- Measuring cup
- Two bowls
- Snow
- 1 Tablespoon of salt
- Stopwatch or clock

Directions:

- Put one cup of snow into each bowl
- Predict how long the snow will take to melt indoors
- Predict how long the snow will take to melt when you put salt on it and let it sit indoors (you will be comparing these two times later)
- Put one tablespoon of salt into one of the bowls of snow
- **Begin timing**
- Let the two bowls of snow sit indoors and compare the melting times
- Talk about what you learned. Talk about why cities put salt on the roads in the winter

Recipes

Snowman marshmallows

Ingredients:

- Jumbo marshmallows (you will use two marshmallows for each snowman)
- Gel icing (black, orange, white)
- Small gumdrops (assorted colors)
- Lifesavers

Directions:

- Ice the tops of two marshmallows with the white icing. (This will make the marshmallows stick together and the top marshmallow stick to the hat.)
 - Place a lifesaver on the icing of the top marshmallow. Then put more white icing on the lifesaver and place one small gumdrop on the lifesaver to make a hat.
 - Let the icing dry for about 20 minutes.
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Directions con't:

- Put black dots on the face for eyes and a mouth with the black gel frosting
- Put black dots on the midsection of the snowman for buttons with the black gel frosting
- Put a carrot-shaped orange nose on the face of the snowman with the orange gel frosting
- Let the snowman dry
- Your snowman can be eaten or used for decoration

Snowman pretzel rods

Ingredients:

- Pretzel rods
- White chocolate candy disks
- Small chocolate chips
- Large gumdrops (assorted colors)
- Fruit roll-ups
- Red gel icing
- Orange gel icing
- (You will need a saucepan and wax paper)



Directions:

- Melt the white chocolate candy disks on the stove in a saucepan
- Once the white chocolate is completely melted dip a pretzel rod
- Set it on the wax paper to cool
- Before the white chocolate is completely dry, put small chocolate chips on the face for the eyes and on the mid-section for the buttons
- When the pretzel rod is completely dry and the chocolate chips are in place, lift the pretzel rod off the wax paper to decorate
- Stick the top of the pretzel rod into a gumdrop for a hat
- Use the orange gel icing to make a carrot-shaped nose
- Use the red gel icing to make a mouth for your snowman
- Cut the fruit roll-ups into rectangular pieces for scarves
- Tie a fruit roll-up scarf around the neck of your snowman
- Display or eat your new snowman

Other Activities

- Make a shaving cream painting by putting some shaving cream on a flat surface and moving it around with your fingers (make sure the shaving cream will not damage your table)
 - Build a real snowman with your family
 - Take a winter nature walk. Talk about all the animals who live outside in the winter. Talk about how we can help take care of them (bird feeders)
 - Make snow angels in the snow
 - Go sled riding
 - Design and build a family snow fort
 - Shovel the snow in someone's driveway who can't do it for themselves
 - Cut snowflakes out of white paper and hang them.
 - Ask older family members (Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles) to recall childhood winter memories. Write these memories in a journal.
 - Go ice skating as a family
 - Have a family snowball fight
 - Make up a winter poem or rap
 - Measure and chart temperature
 - Make and count ice cubes
 - Spray snow with food coloring and water to make a winter painting
 - Talk about hibernating animals
 - Make a snow scene with white chalk on blue or black paper
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Family Literacy



Winter Fun



Snow

by Uri Shulevitz, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1998

Description of book:

As snowflakes slowly come down, one by one, people in the city ignore them. Only a boy and his dog think that the snowfall will amount to anything.

Activity:

Create snowflake picture frames

Materials:

- Photograph or drawing of you and your family playing in snow
- One whole piece of 9"x12" craft foam
- Twelve snowflakes
- Glue
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Two strips of self-adhesive magnets



Instructions:

- Read *Snow* together
- Find a photograph of you and your family playing in the snow. If you do not have a photograph, draw a picture. The dimensions should be 4"x6"
- Cut the 9"x12" piece of black foam into two 6"x9" pieces
- Cut a 4"x 6" hole into one of the 6"x9" pieces of black foam
- Put glue on the back of three sides of the piece of black foam with the 4"x6" hole cut in it (leave one side unglued so you can slide your picture in and out)
- Place the black foam with the hole cut in it (glue side down) onto the whole piece of 6x9" black foam to make a frame
- Glue the 12 foam snowflakes onto the outer frame area
- Once glue is dry, slide the photograph or picture into the frame (you may need to glue or tape the picture to the back of the frame to make sure it stays in place)
- Remove the pieces of paper from the two self-adhesive magnets and place them on the back of the frame
- Hang your new snowflake frame on your refrigerator
- (If you are having difficulty cutting the craft foam, simply glue the photo or picture onto one of the pieces of foam and glue snowflakes to the visible outer edge of the black foam.)

Things to think and talk about:

- Talk about how the boy knew it was going to snow
- Talk about why the people in the city seemed to go inside when it began to snow
- Predict what will happen the day after the big snow
- Talk about a time you remember when your city was covered in snow

Other books on this topic

- *Snow Day* by Betsy Maestro
- *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs
- *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel
- *Boot Weather* by Judith Vigna
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
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Sadie and the Snowman

by Allen Morgan, illustrated by Brenda Clark, Scholastic, New York, 1985

Description of book:

Sadie wants to make a snowman, but there are problems: the animals keep stealing the food she uses to make his face, and he keeps melting. Yet Sadie doesn't get discouraged. She saves a little bit of snow from each snowman she makes to start the next one. As the season comes to an end, Sadie has an idea of how to keep part of her snowman for next year.

Activity:

Create "Snowmen Will Melt Your Heart" Sign

Materials:

- One blue wooden heart
- One white foam snowman
- Six white foam snowflakes
- One orange foam nose
- One red wooden heart
- One black hat
- One white ribbon
- Black marker to draw on eyes and a mouth
- Glue



Instructions:

- Read *Sadie and the Snowman* together
- Glue the hat and the orange carrot nose to the snowman face
- Use the black marker to draw eyes and a mouth on the snowman face
- Glue the snowman and the snowflakes to the wooden heart
- Glue the red heart on the snowman where his heart would be
- Glue the white ribbon to the back of the top of the wooden heart (to make a loop to hang the heart up with)
- Let the glue dry for about an hour or more before hanging on the wall

Things to think and talk about:

- Talk about all the different food items Sadie uses to decorate her snowmen
- Talk about the animals in the story and what they do each time she makes a snowman
- Talk about how Sadie feels every time her snowman began to melt
- Talk about why Sadie wants to keep her snowman until next year
- Talk about a time you and your family made a snowman together (or make plans to build one this year)

Other books on this topic

- *Snow Day* by Betsy Maestro
- *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs
- *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel
- *Boot Weather* by Judith Vigna
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
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