Family Literacy First

Activity Book

Module 3: Waist Deep

Welcome to *Family Literacy First*, a program created to bring together parents and children to have fun while learning as a family. Developed by ABC Life Literacy Canada with the understanding that parents are a child's first and most important teacher, each Module takes the entire family on an exciting journey to learning.

FamilyLiteracyFirst.ca

ABC LifeLiteracyCanada

Story

Waist Deep

Ava and Zak were the only kids at their new school who had never seen snow.

They didn't care. "It sounds cold," said Ava. "And wet!" said Zak. "And dark," said Ava. They both liked sunny days best. No snow was just fine with them.

One Friday night, their parents were listening to the radio. "It's going to get cold tonight," their father said. "Tomorrow, it might snow. Are you two excited?"

But Ava and Zak just looked at each other. "NO!" they said together.

When they woke up in the morning, Ava listened very carefully "Ha!" she said. "It's completely quiet. It can't be snowing outside."

But when she got up to look out the window, she stopped. The sky was filled with huge white snowflakes silently drifting down to the ground.

Ava and Zak stood at the doorway looking outside. The snow was starting to cover the grass. "Better bundle up!" said their father. "It's going to be cold out there."

Ava and Zak bundled up. They put on their jackets and scarves and hats. They put on their thick socks and snow pants and boots. They put on their bright red mittens. "This is ridiculous," Ava said.

"What are we even going to do out there?" whispered Zak. "We can't draw on the driveway with chalk. We can't work on our fort. We can't even play in the leaf pile."

Ava and Zak stepped out into the silent falling snow.

"Ah!" said Ava. "It's cold!"

"Ah!" said Zak. "It's wet!"

They looked around at the light grey sky and the white flakes falling and the white drifts slowly covering their yard. "But I guess it isn't dark at all," said Ava.

Ava and Zak took a few steps through the snow and heard it crunch under their boots.

"What now?" asked Zak. Ava had an idea. They walked in a circle to make a ring in the snow, and then walked out from the ring to turn it into a sun. But the snow kept falling and soon it covered their tracks. It was all the way up to their ankles.

"What now?" asked Zak. He reached down and took a clump of snow in his hand. A snowball. He dropped it to the ground and nudged it with his foot. His snowball got a little bit bigger.

Ava made a snowball, too. She lifted Zak's up and stacked it on top of hers. "Look!" she said. "A snowman!"

They gave him arms with two twigs, and drew him a smiling face. Then they built him a whole family.

Soon there was even more snow. It was all the way up to their knees.

"What now?" asked Zak. He sat down in the snow and leaned back, looking up at the sky. He stretched his arms and legs out wide. He was lying in the cold wet snow, but he was warm and dry.

Ava pulled him back up. "Look!" she said. "A snow angel!" They flopped into the snow and made him a whole family.

Soon there was even more snow. It was all the way up to their waists. "What now?" asked Zak.

"Kids," called their father, "come inside! You're going to get cold and wet out there and it's almost lunch time."

"We'll have to find out later," said Ava. "Snow might be cold and wet, but it's also a ton of fun."

Glossary *(Definitions of Story Words)*

Bundle up: To layer clothing to keep warm.

Snow pants: Warm, waterproof pants you put on top of your regular clothes to protect you from getting cold and wet in the snow.

Snowflake: An ice crystal that is formed when rain freezes in the cold.

Ridiculous: Something that is silly or absurd.

Drift: A big pile of snow that builds when the wind blows.

Nudge: To gently push against something.

Flop: To fall down in a loose, heavy way.

Elements of a Story

Elements of a Story: The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include character, setting and plot.

Character: The people or animals in the story.

Conflict: The problem in the story that needs to be addressed or fixed.

Plot: What happens in the story.

Setting: Where and when the story takes place.

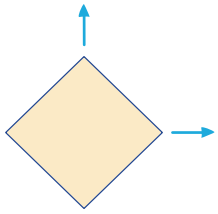
Theme: A story's main idea.

Snowflake Words

Did you know that no two snowflakes are alike? They're all different! Try the following activity and make your own unique snowflakes. By reading the instructions and communicating with each other while you make them, you're practicing your literacy at the same time.

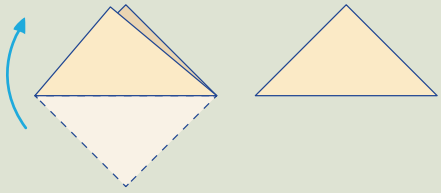
Step 1

Take a square of paper and place it on the table in front of you so it looks like a diamond: the corners facing up and down, and to your right and left.



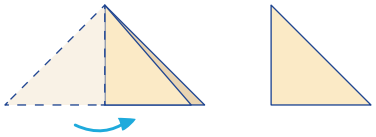
Step 2

Fold the bottom corner up to the top corner. Now you have a triangle.



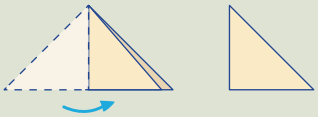
Step 3

Fold the left corner across to the right corner. Now you have a smaller triangle.



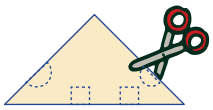
Step 4

Fold the left corner across to the right corner again. Now you have an even smaller triangle!



Step 5

Use a pair of scissors to cut shapes out from the edges of the triangle. Try half-circles, triangles and squares. Be creative!



Step 6

When you're ready, unfold the paper. Now you have a snowflake!

Step 7

Pick your favourite words from the story. Write one on each snowflake you make.

What You'll Need:

squares of paper, a pair of scissors, and a marker for each participant. Optional: paperclips or a stapler, a piece of string for each participant.

Take it Further:

Make a few more snowflakes and write a word from the list below on each one (or choose your own words to use.) How many sentences can you make with your snowflakes? Use paperclips or staples to hang your snowflake sentence on a string to decorate a window or a wall.

This, the, and, is, are, in, out, play, with.

Parts of the Body

When we make snowmen, we often try to make them look like us. A nose on a snowman usually looks pretty different from a nose on a person though!

Use the list below to label each body part on the picture of a person and the picture of a snowman. Are some parts missing from the snowman?

head
eyes
nose
mouth
arm
hands
waist
knee
ankle
feet

What You'll Need:

Activity sheet for each child, pencil.

Take it Further:

Try singing the following fun song together to practice naming body parts.

The Hokey Pokey

You put your left arm in,
You put your left arm out,
You put your left arm in and you shake it all about.
You do the Hokey Pokey and your turn yourself around,
That's what it's all about!

Now try with other body parts!

Right arm
Left leg
Right leg
Head
Whole body

Snowstorm Drawing

There are so many things that you can do in the snow! Imagine that you wake up one Saturday to a snowstorm. What would you do? Go skating or tobogganing? Or sit in front of the fire with a board game? Draw a picture of what you would do on a snowy day.

What You'll Need:

pencils, markers or crayons

Take it Further:

What would your perfect day be, in any weather or time of year? Draw a picture of your perfect day.

Winter Walk Scavenger Hunt

Even with snow cover, there's still a lot to see outdoors in the wintertime. Take a look at the picture below. Can you find all the following things?

- ☐ Snowman
- ☐ Shovel
- ☐ Toboggan
- ☐ Mittens
- ☐ Scarf
- ☐ Snowplow
- ☐ Bird
- ☐ Footprints
- ☐ Paw prints
- ☐ Hockey stick
- ☐ Skates

What You'll Need:

Activity sheet for each child, pencil.

Take it Further:

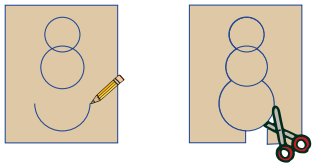
Think about your neighbourhood in the winter. As a family, build a scavenger hunt for a visiting friend. What things should they look out for? Put these items in a list.

Snowman Finger Puppets

Here's what you do:

Step 1

Draw a snowman shape on the cardboard, and cut it out. Pencil marks are ok! They're going to get covered up.



Step 2

Paint your snowman white.

Step 3

Gently pull your cotton balls apart so that they no longer look like balls.

Step 4

Cover your snowman with glue!

Step 5

Press the cotton into the glue so that the entire snowman is covered.

Step 6

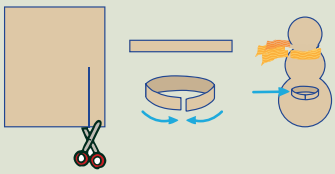
Decorate your snowman. Glue beads, sequins, buttons and googly eyes, or use coloured paint, or whatever you have on hand! Be creative.

Step 7

When you're done decorating your snowman, tie the yarn or fabric around the snowman for a scarf.

Step 8

Cut a strip of cardboard that's about 10-12 cm long. Curl it into a circle that you can fit on your finger like a ring. Tape it to the back of your snowman. Now your have a snowman finger puppet!



What You'll Need:

- Thin cardboard from empty cracker or cereal boxes
- Pencil
- Scissors
- White paint and paint brush
- White glue
- Cotton balls
- Coloured beads, sequins, buttons, googly eyes, or coloured paint
- Scraps of yarn or fabric
- Tape

Take it Further:

Why stop with snowmen? Try making your own shapes and animals. Once you have a few puppets, put on a play together as a family.