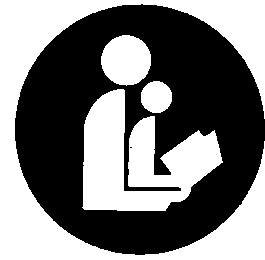


Picture It, Dads!



Facilitator Activities For *The Mitten*



Picture It Dads! The Mitten



Goals for Dads:

1. To practice effective read-aloud techniques.
2. To develop strategies to help retell the story.
3. To learn about cumulative story structure.

Goals for Children:

1. To enjoy read-alouds.
2. To learn how to retell a story.
3. To use the cumulative story structure to make predictions.

Schedule of Activities

A. Welcome

Introductions; nametags

B. Whole Group

- a. Action Chant: *Six in the Bed*
- b. *The Mitten*

C. Parent Session

- a. See: Parent Session Plan

D. Children's Session

- a. See: Children's Session Plan: Making Play Dough Animals
- b. Snack*

E. Dads and Children Activity

- a. See: Combined Parents/Children Session: Book-Making Activity
- b. Assemble book (Computer Lab)

F. Hand out Workshop Bag

*Snack can move depending on time.

Whole Group Session: Parents and Children

In advance: Print the chant on chart paper.

Gather children together on floor or in chairs close to the chart. (The chart helps the leaders remember what comes next and helps parents participate!)



Ten In The Bed

There were six in the bed and the little one said,
"Roll over, roll over." (Make *rolling motion* with arms and hands)
So they all rolled over and one fell out.
There were five in the bed and the little one said,
"Roll over, roll over." (Make *rolling motion* with arms and hands)
So they all rolled over and one fell out....

This is repeated until you get to the number one. Each time "roll over" is said, rolling motion is dramatized.

There was one in the bed and the little one said (Pause)

"Alone at last!" (Stretch arms in the air.)

Story: Read *The Mitten*

Place the Big Book on the easel so children can see the pictures. Say, "The title of this story is *The Mitten*." Introduce title, author as you show the cover and the main character, Nicki, and his grandmother, Baba. Discuss what the story might be about; Picture walk making sure to discuss the detailed illustrations on the main portion of the pages and on the borders of each page (setting, clothing, animals) stopping before last page; Read aloud for enjoyment and to see how story ends and talk about the following as you read the story:

Why wouldn't it be a good idea to have white mittens?

Do you think that Baba will be upset that Nicki dropped a mitten?

What is happening in the border?

Who do you think will find the mitten next?

What would it be like inside the mitten?

How had Nicki's mittens changed from the beginning of the story to the end?

After reading the story, tell the children they will have a copy of the book for their very own to take home with them to keep. Tell them they are going to have help to make their very own **Play Dough Animals**. Encourage them to go with _____ (the Early Childhood teacher). Tell them you are going to talk with their dads and that you will join them soon.

See: Parent Session Directions



Children's Session: Play Dough Animals

Materials: Play dough (assorted colours), styro trays

In Advance: Make up several batches of play dough quickly by using this easy recipe: **Microwave Play Dough**

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

4 tbs oil

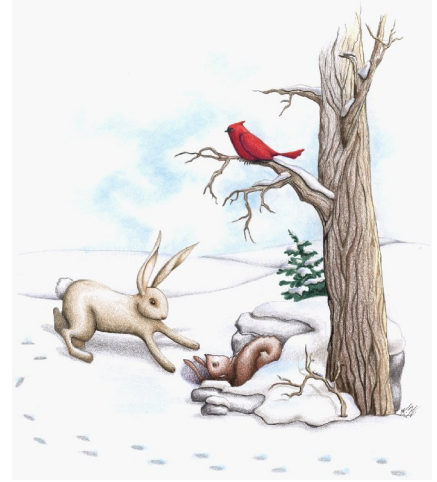
2 cups water

4 tsp cream of tartar

Food coloring

How To: Mix all ingredients in large deep microwaveable container.

Microwave on high for 3 to 5 minutes, stirring every minute. Cook until mixture gets so thick it can't be stirred. Let mixture cool. Divide and knead in food color. Store in an airtight containers or Ziplock bags.



The Activity:

Ask the children who has used play dough before. Depending on their responses, talk about how to use the dough and what animals they might make. Demonstrate several techniques: rolling, flattening, adding on legs and tails, etc.

Give each child some play dough and a cardboard or Styrofoam tray on which to work. The tray will provide a base on which to work so their dough creation doesn't break during transport later.



As they work talk about what they are making and how they are making it. Allow for sharing of colours.

Clean-up: Have children help tidy up.

Group share:

If time permits, have the children share their creations.

Parent Session

The Mitten Debriefing:

Team Talk: Talk about the read-aloud. This should be an interactive session with lots of opportunity for the Dads to share their own experiences and to ask questions.

What did you notice about how the leader read the book?

How did they use their voice?

What about their body, facial expression, eye contact?

What did you notice about how the children responded?

Did they participate? How?

What did they say? When?

Did they lose interest at any point?

How did the leader try to get their interest back?

Talk about your own experiences when reading aloud to your child or someone else's. Give examples of how you involved the child in the reading: turning pages, lifting flaps, making noises. Explain that if a child really isn't interested to try changing the book. Give other tips from your own experience.



Focus this session on prompting and questioning:

"What" questions: e.g. What's this? What is the dog doing? etc.

"Open-ended" questions: What's going on here?

Information to share with parents about asking "what" questions:

Ask "what" questions

Follow answers with another question

Repeat what your child says

Help your child as needed: give the answer and have your child repeat

Praise and encourage your child

Follow your child's interests

Information to share with parents about asking "open-ended" questions:

Ask "open-ended" questions: What's going on here? Tell me what you see on this page.

Follow answers with another question: What else do you see? I wonder how . . . How did that happen? What do you think?

Expand what your child says

Add another piece of information

Help your child repeat longer phrases

Take-Home Bags

Show the materials in the bag. Briefly go over the contents and activities. Explain there is more information on questioning in the Parent Home Activity booklet.

Note: Explain they are to keep the materials and to bring the bag back the next time they come so it can be filled with new materials.

Briefly describe what the children have been doing (making Play Dough creatures) and explain they can help their child practice talking about their animals by asking their child how they made it (How did you make the body?)

Explain final book-making activity

The book they will make with their child will use the same sort of pattern found in *The Mitten*. We have a template prepared that they will fill in for their child.

We will all be in the computer room and there will be lots of help.

Today's book is based on *The Mitten* and will use a template already on the computer. The title of the book will only need to have your picture added.

Each page uses an animal from the picture bank at the end. Feel free to use the same one more than once if that fits your story.

Here are the steps:

- a. Working at a computer, choose **your** picture from the picture bank and put it on the title page AND the first page of the book.
- b. Now choose you and your child's picture for page two. Put it on the page and add the necessary words.
- c. **This picture must go on each page of the book.**
- d. Add a pet to the chair on page 3. This pet will also go on page 4. Add a new pet to the chair on page 4. You will need to add more pictures for each page! Fill in the proper words that describe who is in your chair.
- e. Repeat for page 5.
- f. The last page will have everyone in the chair with Dad reading the story **AGAIN**.
- g. Print out the book (use cover stock for the first page), cut apart the pages and bind.

