

Dear Dad:

Storytelling and story-making bring parents and children together. Use the animals included to tell your own version of *The Mitten*.

Materials

A mitten

Plastic animals

How to play

Using a real mitten and plastic animals, ask your child to choose which animal he/she would like to put in the mitten. Each time an animal is added say the following together:

"It's frosty cold here outside,
let me in, let me in,
where it's nice and warm".

Tips and Suggestions

- Your child will also like retelling the story of *The Mitten* using Jane Brett's pictures of the animals in the story. The Jan Brett website (<http://www.janbrett.com>) has pictures from the book to use in an exact retelling. Mount these on card stock and cut out. Use an actual mitten or make a paper one from the pattern. Your child will enjoy retelling this story over and over either exactly like the book or making up new versions. This is a wonderful website. You can also find animal masks for downloading so your child can become as many of the characters in the book as he/she wants!
- Go to the Library and find out more about the animals in the story.
- True stories: Choose a selection of family photographs and talk with your child about when they were taken and who is in the picture and what the occasion was. On a piece of blank white paper ask your child what he/she would like to have you write about the picture. Print a sentence or two on the paper. As you write, talk about the letters you use and reread the words from time to time. Do not do this as if you are teaching, but rather, as if you are reminding yourself of what you need to do as you write. Trim the white paper and arrange it with the photo on a piece of coloured paper. Glue both to the coloured paper and hang on the fridge or a bulletin board so you and your child can re-read what you wrote.



Sincerely,