



SpeakEasy Sandbox #32: Snowmen at Night

Pre-verbal

Activity: Just open and close your book today.

It is never too early to start looking at the pictures and learning what books are all about. Add a sign or gesture to help your child learn "open" (see Enhancing Your Activity for the sign) as you say "let's open the book." Follow your child's lead and talk about a few of the pictures as you flip through the pages, then do the same with a "close" gesture as you get to the end.

Vocalizer

Activity: Don't worry too much about the words on the page. Instead, focus on the pictures together and make some sounds to go with them. Open your book, point to a picture, and make a comment about it that includes a sound. You might try, "Shhhh, the street is quiet." "Wheee! They're skating!" "Brrrr that snow looks cold!"

First words

Activity: Emphasize the winter actions in the story by adding a motion that your child may be able to imitate before they can say the word. For example, when the snowmen go skating, you can move your feet back and forth "I'm skating, wheee!". The story is full of verbs to act out, like skating, drinking hot chocolate, making snow angels and building snowballs.

Word combiner

Activity: Use your winter book to teach your child about "warm" and "cold." Find warm and cold items as you read. If this is a new concept for your child, give plenty of examples first. "That scarf is warm." "The hot chocolate is warm." "The hat is warm, too!" Go back through and review the items you found, modeling phrases that your child can listen to and imitate: "A warm hat, a warm scarf, warm chocolate!"

Full sentences

Activity: During or after reading your story, pretend to be the snowmen from the book enjoying their time in the snow. Put empty tissue boxes on your feet and "ice skate" around the room. Help your child create the whole scene by describing your pretend environment. "I think it's about to start snowing!" "Let's go to the ice rink over there." "Whew it's cold out here. Good thing we're wearing our big winter jackets."

Featured Book:



The SpeakEasy Sandbox is a newsletter that provides the necessary tools to boost your child's language and feeding development through play. Sign up at www.speakeasycommunity.com.