

# The Snowy Day

By Ezra Jack Keats

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A young boy named Peter spends a fun day in the snow. He learns a lot about snow and cold weather.

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## BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them what they think the boy on the cover is doing.
- Ask them what the boy is wearing.

## WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
  - ⇒Have you ever played in the snow?
  - ⇒What does snow feel like?
  - ⇒What kinds of things do you like to do in the snow?
  - ⇒What kinds of clothing do you wear in the snow?

## AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What fun things did Peter do in the snow?
- ⇒What things did Peter do that you would like to try in the snow?
- ⇒What do you think happened to Peter's snowball?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading "The Snowy Day."

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## MATH AND SCIENCE

Give each child an ice cube. Allow them to play with it for a couple of minutes. Talk about what happened to the ice cube. Talk about how ice melts when it gets warm. Discuss what happened to Peter's snowball.

## READING READINESS

Write Peter's name out so the children can see it. Ask what letter "Peter" starts with. Have each child practice making the "P" sound. Ask each child what letter their name starts with. Have them go around the room and find an object that starts with the same letter that their name starts with.

## MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Have the children pretend to be snowmen. Dance around and sing "Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul, with a corn cob pipe and a button nose and two eyes made out of coal!" When the song is over, pretend to be the sun. Have the children "melt" onto the floor.

## MOTOR SKILLS

Help the children practice walking the way Peter did in the snow. Have them walk with their toes pointing out and their toes pointing in. Have them drag their feet slowly across the floor.

Have them lay on the floor, and show them how to move their bodies to make snow angels.

## THINKING SKILLS

Have the children compare the temperature inside Peter's house with the snow outside. What kind of temperature is best for snow? Ask the children why they think Peter's snowball melted when Peter brought it inside. Where should Peter have left his snowball?

## ART

Make up a snowman story with the children. Have the children draw pictures of the story. Ask them what the snowman is doing, thinking, and feeling in the pictures. Help them write words to their story if they choose.

## PRETEND PLAY

Use dress-up clothes to talk about what you should wear when you go outside in the snow. Practice using hats, scarves, jackets, and gloves. Use blocks, boxes, or pillows to build "snow forts" and play in a pretend winter wonderland.

