

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



The Snowy Day

Written and illustrated by
Ezra Jack Keats

Preschool edition
December 2018

Overview of Book

Peter wakes to find a winter wonderland! Join him as he explores the snow with all the curiosity, excitement and wonder little children have. Peter's red snowsuit adds innocence and authenticity to this classic and lovely story.

Genre: Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *The Snowy Day* to introduce in your classroom:

path	firm
adventure	empty

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to Learning
Item A (*Initiative and planning*)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item P (*Reading*)
Item Q (*Book enjoyment and knowledge*)

Science & Technology
Item DD
(*Natural and physical world*)

Reading Tips

Read this with all the wonder and amazement Peter feels when he first looks out the window.

Ask the children questions about what they see on the page, like "What is making that other track in the snow?" Gather several ideas before turning the page to reveal the stick.

There is a quiet and wintery silence to some of the pictures that encourage the reader to whisper.

Peter tells his mother of his adventures in the snow. Encourage children to recall what Peter did that day.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story.

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Children can make pretend snow angels on the carpet during **Large Group Time**.

Have the children **transition** by walking with their toes in or out.

The author used collage techniques and washes for the illustrations. Provide watercolors, collage materials and glue at **Small Group Time**.

Encourage the children to make tracks in the snow and draw lines and pictures in the snow with short sticks at **Outside Time**.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Put snow (and plenty of spare mittens!) in the **Sand and Water Area** for children to explore.

Post photos of winter scenes around the room at children's eye level. Include country, cityscapes and wilderness examples.

At **Outside Time**, take pictures of the children at playing in the snow; post pictures near the coat area.

Place other age appropriate, high quality winter stories in the **Book Area**.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *The Snowy Day*:

What happened to Peter's snowball?

Why did Peter dream that all the snow was gone?

What will Peter and his friend do in the snow together?

What do you like to do on a snowy day?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *The Snowy Day* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats is over fifty years old! Perhaps you remember this delightful book from your own childhood. This is a book you can enjoy over and over with your child. While outside in the snow, make angels "like Peter" or walk in silly ways "like Peter." Invite your child to "read" the story to you by looking at the pictures and recalling parts heard during your reading. Ask questions like "What happened after Peter took his bath?" or "What did he do next?"