

Theme: Snow Animals!

Week 1

This document contains all of the activities for the theme “for the age group “Big Kids.”

Have fun!

Questions or comments? Please email us at

[playconnecttoday@gmail.com!](mailto:playconnecttoday@gmail.com)

All activities require adult supervision!

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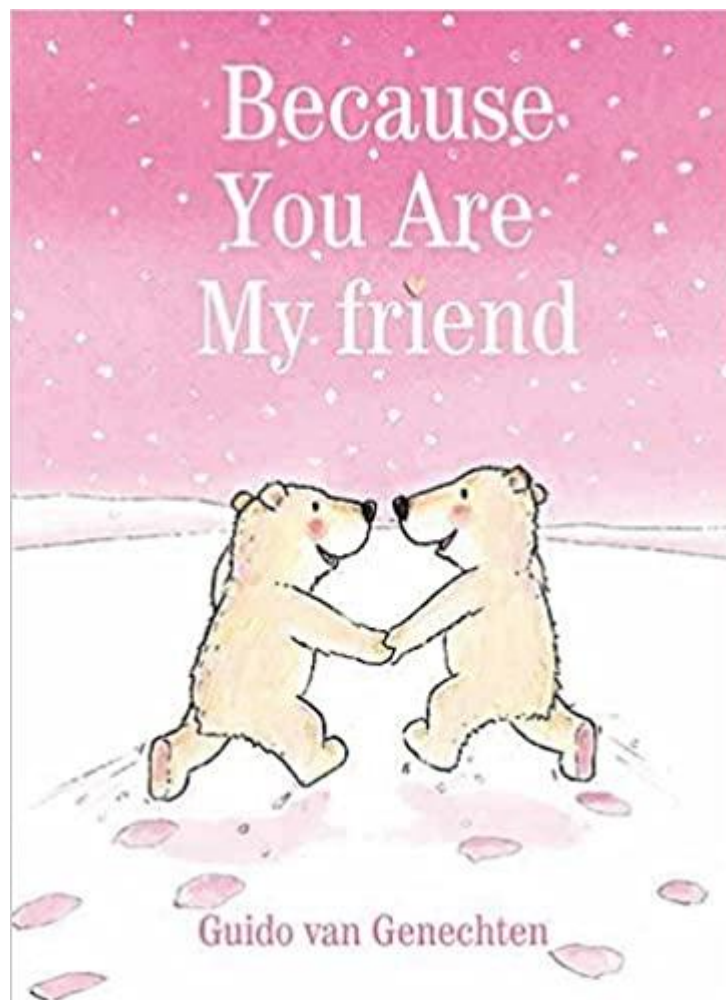
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Book Suggestion

“Because you are my Friend”

(We highly recommend checking your local library for this book, however if you cannot find it-please see link on our “Theme extras” web page to purchase if desired or find another book that showcases snow animals)! - We suggest using the same book for two weeks as this really helps children gain reading comprehension of the book!



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Song Suggestion


Penguins waddling

Written by: Play Connect LLC

5 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

4 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

3 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

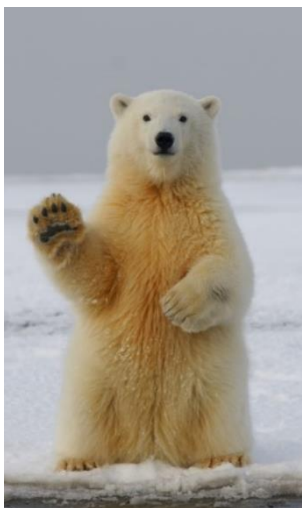
2 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

1 little penguin was waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

No little penguins are waddling
They have all decided to go for a swim

Simple Vocabulary Words

These are optional vocabulary cards to show your child before reading the story to help with understanding. It is also a great idea to point out the animals while reading the book!



POLAR BEAR



SEAL



PENGUIN



WALRUS

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SNOWY OWL



ARCTIC FOX



ARCTIC

Art Project: Polar Bear

What you need for this activity:

- *Non-toxic Glue
- *Child-safe scissors
- *White paper plate (or large white circle)
- *2 white half circles (for the ears)
- *1 black circle cut from construction paper for nose
- *2 black circles cut from construction paper for eyes (or googly eyes)
- *White cotton balls, tissue paper, ripped white paper
- *Black yarn or pipe cleaner

Directions:

Step 1: Cut two half circles out of the white paper and attach them to the back of your paper plate towards the top (for the ears).

Step 2: Cover the front of the plate in cotton balls, tissue paper, ripped up white paper etc. using your glue.

Step 3: Cut a circle for the nose (if you are not using googly eyes, two more for the eyes) and glue them onto the plate.

Step 4: Add a mouth using black yarn or pipe cleaner.

Pre-writing activity:

Searching for U shapes

What you need for this activity:

- *Space to move around
- *An example of U shapes (upside down U as well-aka bridge shape)
- *Optional- Salt or sand tray (cookie sheet with salt or sand in it for tracing)

Directions:

Various types of lines are important for children to begin engaging with as they form the structure of letters! When they practice forming these lines, they are setting themselves up to start writing!

Show children an example of the bridge shapes (can be on a piece of paper, could be tape on the floor etc.) Let them trace it with their fingers. Then, let them explore and see if they can find any bridge lines in the space you have! If you would like to lengthen this activity, you can make a salt tray (a cookie sheet with salt in it) and let them trace their fingers in the tray. (Sand is another good option for the tray)!

*Snow option! If you have snow in your area, this is a great opportunity to play outside too-make bridge lines in the snow with sticks! See who can make a bridge line by dragging a stick across the snow.

*Extra extension- can you think of any letters that have this type of line in them?!

Math Activity:

Snow Animal Number Recognition

What you need for this activity:

- *Snow Animal Count and Clip Cards
- *Clothes pins/ paper clips

Directions:

*This activity will ask your children to work on number recognition up to the number 6.

*Cut out the cards below, then ask your child to place a clip/clothespin on the correct number!

**Optionally do this activity a different way – give your child(ren) the cards that show a number on them, have them place that many “snow animal manipulatives” on the card. (I.E., 5 penguins on the number 5 etc.)



3

4

2



6

2

4



2

1

3



3

1

2

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3

6

5



1

4

5

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1

2

3

4

5

6

Language Activity: “I’m going to find snow animals and I’m Taking...”

What you need for this activity:

*This game can be played without any supplies however for the optional variation:

-Snow “supplies”- thermometer, warm coat, mittens, socks, snow pants, box (to freeze ice and make an igloo), something noisy...

Directions:

Everyone sits in a circle and one person begins “I’m going to find snow animals and I’m bringing_____”. (If you are using the materials, have the child place that item in front of them. I.E. If they are bringing mittens-they should place mittens in front of them). If possible, an adult can write down the item-this is a great way to utilize dictation!

Then the next child goes: however, he or she must first repeat what the child(ren) before said. So “I’m going to find snow animals and I’m bringing mittens and _____ (their own choice). If the child cannot recall the item(s) said before them, they can be given hints!

This is a great way to work on memory, oral communication and focus!

Science Activity:

How does a polar bear stay warm?

What you need for this activity:

- *Plastic container with ice water
- *3 small Ziploc plastic bags
- *Shortening
- *Spatula
- *Thermometer

Directions:

Let children experiment with sticking their hands in the cold water-ask them how does it feel?

How do they keep their hands warm when it's cold outside-then ask how they think polar bears do it. (Have an adult write down their answer if possible-another great opportunity for dictation)! There's a good chance that many of them will say with fur-which is part of the reason but it is also due to the blubber (i.e., fat) on the polar bear.

Then:

- *Use the (child safe) thermometer to measure the temperature of the water. (Record this number somewhere).
- *Turn one small bag inside out, place it on the child's hand and cover it in shortening-really cover it!
- *Place the shortening covered bag into a clean Ziploc bag (so you don't get shortening in the water).
- *Put both hands in the water at the same time and see which one stays warmer! Measure the temperature inside of the bag with shortening (it should be warmer)!

*Give the simple explanation that polar bears (and many other arctic animals) have a bunch of blubber-like the shortening and that keeps them warm when it's really cold outside!

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