

The Snowy Day

By Ezra Jack Keats



Check out the Learning and Literacy Profile of the ready kindergartner

The Lesson

Lesson plan by: Mia Hartley Phillips

Length of Lesson: 45 minutes
(can be adjusted by eliminating * items to 15-30 minutes, depending on child needs)

Objective/Brief Description:
Explore cold weather activities through movement and story recall

Materials

Materials Provided: colored paper, copy paper, snow balls, white crayons

Materials From Home: winter clothes, if you want to dress up like it's cold

INTRODUCTION:

At a location where the students come to you instead of traveling to their classroom:

Begin outside the room and give each student a "Magic Key" (a crayon). This is their key to their imagination. At the door, each student is asked the question, "What are some things you like to do outside?" Then act it out as they enter the room and join the group circle. (They could pretend to jump rope, climb, run, etc.)

Offsite where student(s) are already in the classroom or at home:

Have them sit in a circle in their regular "group space." Ask the question "What are some things you like to do outside?"

Have them act out different things to do outside.



LET'S GET MOVING:

Ask the students if they know about the Seasons. Ask one question about each Season to identify the Seasons, ending with Winter.

What do we wear to go outside and play in the snow? Get suggestions and then act out getting dressed to go outside to play in the snow.

When we get outside, we go for a walk in the snow. Take giant steps as you explore the space with the students. Walk with your feet pointing in and then walk with your feet pointing out. After a minute or so, have everyone freeze. Ask for suggestions of other things we can do in the snow. (*i.e. make snow angels, build a snowman, go sledding, etc.*). Act out each activity.

When they ask about a snowball fight, tell them they are too young. When they say they aren't too young, tell them you know a story about a boy named Peter who wanted to have a snowball fight, too. Let's go check it out!

TRANSITION:

We walk through the snow to the "library."

READ THE STORY:

Read *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats

IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AND HOW TO SOLVE IT:

Wow, Peter had a lot of things happen on his snow day. Ask children to identify some of the problems: he was too young for a snowball fight with the big kids and his snowball melted.

What did Peter do? He called a friend to play the next day. Do you think he and his friend could have a snowball fight together? How could we have a snowball fight without snow? Slowly form a snowball in your hand, and then start to pretend snowball fight with the students (*there is usually a lot of loud noise and joy, you may need to prepare students who don't like loud noises*).

Peter took home a snowball, but it melted. Why did it melt? Is there a way we could play with a snowball without it melting? Get ideas from the children then show the fake snowballs (*included in materials*). Pass them around and let the students play with them. Is there a way to make a snowball that you can keep? Pass out white paper and let them ball it up to make snowballs.

We don't usually get much snow in South Carolina. What are other ways we could explore snow? Pass out colored paper and white crayons. Have them draw a picture of something they would like to do in the snow.

END OF CLASS:

*Students then take turns going behind the curtain, shelving unit, or whatever is available to create and entrance and exit stage area. The student enters, crosses to the center, says their name, and acts out what they would like to do in the snow. The audience applauds and the student bows and exits.



Thank you for taking a few minutes to fill out this survey.

