

Everyday and Everyway Talking about... January



January is one of the coldest months of the year. Dress warmly, go outside, and enjoy some winter activities and sports. January 27th is Family Literacy Day! Whether you stay in and read books together or head out for some winter fun, you will have lots of chances to talk about new ideas using new words.

The Chinese New Year takes place in January or February every year. This holiday lasts 15 days. Look for celebrations and activities in your area.

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing, and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Activities

Snow

Children of all ages like to play in the snow. If they dress warmly they can play outside and have lots of fun.

- Let your child help shovel the walk with his toy shovel. Talk about how to push the shovel, or how the snow is cold, heavy, or wet.
- Go for walks in the snow. Talk about the footprints you see and the footprints you make. Talk about how your footprints are big and your child's are small. Make pictures in the snow with your footprints.
- Stop and make snow angels or snowmen. Talk about the parts of the angel and the snowman. Talk about what will happen when the weather gets warmer.
- Try skating, snowshoeing, or sledding. Your child will learn about ice, laces, going fast, and falling down.

Family Literacy Day

Every year on this day families across Canada celebrate literacy. Watch for activities in your community.

- Take time to read together with your children.
- Visit your local library for great books for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- When you read, talk about the pictures. Ask your child what he sees or thinks is happening.

Puppet play

- After reading a story together, act it out together.
- Use puppets or stuffed animals. Pretend to be a character from the story. Include other family members in your story or in your audience.
- Make your own puppets from paper bags or old socks.

Writing

- Talk to your child about the printed words you see. Words are everywhere – on cereal boxes, signs, logos, and even toys.
- Keep paper, crayons, markers, and paint handy. Take time to draw pictures, make signs, and write cards together.
- Let your child help you write a shopping list. Even if she is scribbling, she is learning one of the many ways written language is used.





Songs and rhymes

Want to learn more songs and rhymes? Look for a parent-child music class in your area.

Snowman rhyme/song

Author unknown

10 little snowmen riding on a sled.
One fell off and bumped his head.
Frosty called the doctor,
And the doctor said,
"NO MORE SNOWMEN RIDING ON THAT SLED!"

The ABC song

Singing the ABC (alphabet) song helps your child learn the names of the letters.



Books

Go to your local public library to find these and many more great books.

The snowy day by Ezra Jack Keats

Dream snow by Eric Carle

Froggy gets dressed by Jonathan London

Whose socks are those? by Jez Alborough

Hello snow by Hope Vertergaard

Skidamarink by G. Brian Karas

The mitten by Jan Brett

Dragon dance by Joan Holub

My first Chinese New Year by Karen Katz

Bear snores on by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman

Book, book, book by Deborah Bruss

All you need for a snowman by Alice Schertle



Crafts

For more craft ideas go to www.wondertime.go.com

Make your own book

Look for pictures in flyers and old magazines. Cut these out and glue them onto sheets of paper to make your own book. Write the names of the objects on the paper for your child. You can also make a book out of your child's drawings. Older children can make up stories about their drawings and can write down the words.

Paper bag puppet

Materials needed

Paper lunch bags – ones with the fold over bottom are best
Glue
Crayons or markers
Scraps of fabric
Coloured construction paper
Yarn

Instructions

Let your child use markers or crayons to draw the face on your puppet. Use fabric or construction paper to make clothes for your puppet. Glue yarn on to make hair.

Create as many puppets as you can with your materials and imagination. Once your puppet is done, don't forget to use it to pretend and act out a story or two.

Drawing, colouring, cutting, and making crafts help children learn skills they later need for writing.

When making crafts . . .

How the craft looks when it's done is not as important as the fun your child has making it.