

# Beyond the Book Activities

## *The Snowy Day* By Ezra Jack Keats

**Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.**

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
  - Student aid
  - Special education and grade repetition
  - Teacher related costs
  - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECFE Little Cubs.

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### Supplies Needed

#### **Activity 1**

- Round objects
- White construction paper
- Blue construction paper
- Glue
- Markers
- Scissors

#### **Activity 2**

- Coffee Filters
- Markers

#### **Activity 3**

- Popsicle sticks

- Paint
- White paper

#### **Activity 4**

- Small bowls
- Ice cubes
- Kitchen timer

#### **Activity 5**

- Crayons or chalk
- Blue or black construction paper

#### **Activity 6**

- Paper plates

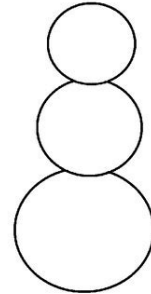
**\*Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

## Activity 1: Snow People

**Supplies you'll provide:** A variety of different sized round items (at least 3), markers, scissors, white construction paper and glue

### **Directions:**

- Set out the different sized round items.
- Have your child pick three different sizes.
- Have your child trace each size on white paper.
- Have your child cut out the circles they have traced.
- Have your child glue the circles, largest to smallest, onto the blue paper to create their snow person.
- Give your child markers and have them decorate the snow person they've made.



## Activity 2: Coffee Filter Snowflakes

**Supplies you'll provide:** Coffee filters and markers

### **Directions:**

- Give your child a coffee filter and markers.
- Instruct your child to color the coffee filter however they like.
- Have your child fold the coffee filter several times and cut out small section of it to make a snowflake.
- Have your child open the coffee filter to see their finished design.
- Make several snowflakes and display them around your house.
- Option: spray water on coffee filter with a mist spray bottle to make the color of the markers run together.



## Activity 3: Painting With Sticks

**Supplies you'll need:** Popsicle sticks (or small sticks from outside), paint and white paper

### **Directions:**

- Show your child the page where Peter finds a stick.
- Give your child a (craft) stick or have him find some small sticks outside.
- Explain to your child that they are going to drag these sticks like Peter did, but on paper instead of the ground.
- Show your child how to dab the stick into the paint and drag it across a piece of white paper.

## **Activity 4: Melting Ice Cubes**

**Supplies you'll need:** Small bowl, ice cubes and a kitchen timer

**Directions:**

- Have your child place a few ice cubes into the small bowl.
- Set your kitchen timer to check the cubes every 10 minutes and see what is happening.
- Discuss with your child the changes that occur as the ice cubes melt.

## **Activity 5: Snow Day Pictures**

**Supplies you'll need:** Crayons or chalk and dark blue or black construction paper

**Directions:**

- Have your child use chalk or crayons to draw a picture on black or blue paper.
- Have your child tell you about their picture.

## **Activity 6: Ice Skating**

**Supplies you'll need:** Paper plates

**Directions:**

- Give your child paper plates.
- Have your child place a plate under each foot.
- Have your child move around the room, sliding their feet along as if they are skating.

