



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. The world looks very different during the winter months so there are great opportunities for language development.

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 and frost

It is never guaranteed so seize the opportunity if it snows. 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 path 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 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.



Talking about winter

- Tell your child about the things you enjoyed doing in Winter as a child.
- The children will be making bird cake. Watch and talk about the birds that visit the cake.



Out and About

- Use opportunities to draw your children's attention to signs of Winter: Winter clothes, bare trees, frosty mornings, icy puddles or shorter days.
- If you are visiting a garden centre encourage your child to look at the indoor and outdoor plants. Also look for signs of snowdrops, crocuses or even early daffodils peaking through the soil.

Puppet Play

- After reading a story together, act it out together.
- Use puppets of 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 boxes you see. Words are everywhere on cereal boxes, signs, logos, and even toys.
- Keep paper, crayons, markers and paint hand. 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 and rhymes?

Look for a parent-child music class in your area.

Incy, Wincy Spider climbing up the trees,
Down came the snow and made the spider freeze
Out came the sunshine and melted all the snow
Incy Wincy Spider had another go.

In the snow we wear a coat,
And a scarf and a hat
In the snow we wear our boots and gloves
To keep us warm.
In the rain we wear a mac,
Wellington boots, splish, splish, splash
In the rain our hair gets wet,
We put up our umbrellas.
(tune of London's burning)

A chubby little snowman
Had a carrot nose
Along came a rabbit
And what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny,
Looking for his lunch,
Ate the snowman's carrot nose . . .
Nibble, nibble, crunch!

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!"

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

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 these? by Jez Alborough

All you need for a snowman by Alice Schertle

Bear snores on by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman

Dragon dance by Joan Holub

My first Chinese New year by Karen Kratz

Book, book, book by Deborah Bruss

Hello snow by Hope Vertergaard

Skidamarink by G Brian Karas

The mitten by Jan Brett



When making
crafts ...

How the craft
looks when it's

done is as

important as the

fun your child has

making it

Stories

There are lots of wonderful books on the theme of Winter. Your local library will have some but we would recommend also . . .

Cudley Dudley by Jez Alborough

The Cross Rabbit by Nick Butterworth

Jolly Snow by Jane Hissey

Lost in the Snow by Ian Beck

The Snow by John Burningham

The Snow Lambs by Debri Giori

Elmer in the Snow by David McKee

Crafts

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

Make your own book

Take photos of a family outing or playing in the snow. Stick the photos one to a page in a scrapbook. Add captions and decorate or use a photo for the cover of your book. This will become a favourite story and it is an activity which reinforces book handling skills and the vocabulary of books eg, title, illustration, author etc.

Paper Bag Puppet

Materials needed:

Paper lunch bag, glue, crayons or marker, scraps of fabric, coloured construction paper, wool.

Let your child use markers or crayons to draw the face to make clothes for your puppet. Glue wool 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!