

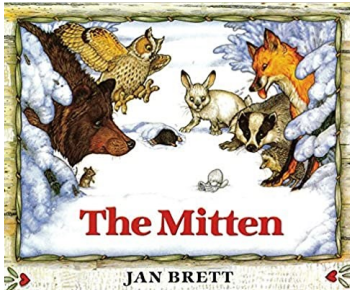


The Scoop in Family Child Care

For Licensed Home Child Care Providers

Date: January 3, 2021

Issue #13



Featured Book

A classic Ukrainian folktale retold and stunningly illustrated by Brett, *The Mitten* follows the adventures of little Nicki, who loses his white mitten in the snow -- and the curious crew of woodland animals who happen upon it and have their mischievous fun.

visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3rRWzdHv5M> to hear author Jan Brett read *The Mitten*.

Fine Motor and Math

Place a variety of mittens inside a basket. Attach a line between two chairs or corner of a room. Let children use clothespins to clip the mittens on the drying line.

Matching is also a great activity for you to do with your toddlers. Going with the theme of the book, use mittens for making pairs. So grab a few pairs of mittens and your child can work on matching them.



You can also expand this lesson by using the mittens for patterns or sequencing them (small, medium, large/1st, 2nd, 3rd). So many different learning opportunities with one great book and a few things you probably already own.



Retelling the Story

There are so many great ways for you to retell this classic story.

We have included printouts that children

can cut out and retell the story, follow along with the attached song or simply recall details when prompted by the teacher.



In this photo, the teacher used tape on carpet as an outline for a mitten and children acted out the parts of the animals as the teacher retold the story.

Be creative and have fun!

<https://teachpreschool.org/>

Simple Snack

Use snack time as an extension of the story. You can use the provided mitten printout as a placemat and give each child a handful of animal crackers. Ask children; What would happen if (name one of the animal crackers) found the mitten? How many animals do you think will fit in your mitten?, etc.



Art and Science!

Use a white crayon to draw snowflakes on the watercolor paper. When you brush the watercolor paint over the paper, your snowflakes will magically appear! Cover the entire sheet of watercolor paper with paint. While the paint is still wet, pinch a little bit of table salt onto your painting. Just regular old kitchen salt. Pour a small amount into your hand and pinch a few grains at a time onto your painting. Basically, the grains of salt act like little sponges. They soak up the paint that's surrounding them so you end up with neat little frosty looking circles on your painting! After the paint is completely dry, brush away the grains of salt and you're done!

Materials:

watercolor paper
watercolor paint
white crayon
paint brushes
table salt (just regular kitchen salt)



Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grants

Illinois was awarded federal relief dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to ensure that child care programs can weather the pandemic – and emerge from it stronger than before. So far, this funding has been used to provide Child Care Restoration Grants and the Child Care Workforce Bonus program. In 2022, the Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant (SGCC) will provide stable, predictable funding to support high-quality child care and invest in our critical child care workforce. Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant applications will open in January 2022, and the program will start in February 2022 and run through January 2023.

The Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant will provide child care homes with \$2,500 per program per quarter, group day care homes with \$3,750 per program per quarter. Additional add-on funds are available for programs in areas where families are facing greater systemic barriers, such as low employment, poverty, or crowded housing. Funds will be awarded in advance of each quarter so that programs can plan to incorporate them into their regular operating budgets, creating predictable and stable funding models.

More information on the program can be found on the SGCC webpage (<https://www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/strengthen-and-grow-child-care-grants>). For questions, please email grants@inccrra.org or call 1-855-939-4858.



Flu Season, COVID-19, and the Importance of Well-Child Visits

School-aged children are more likely to seek medical care due to the influenza virus (the flu) than adults. Taking steps to reduce influenza among children helps to reduce transmission of the flu in families and the community. Getting a flu shot is especially important during COVID-19, as hospitals and care centers are experiencing high volumes of patients and strains with staff shortages. Children ages 5+ are eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. COVID-19 and flu vaccines can be given at the same time.

Additionally, well-child visits are always important, and some of the benefits include: tracking growth and development, an opportunity for parents/caregivers to raise concerns, a team approach to raising a healthy, happy child, and prevention of illness through vaccinations given at these appointments. Families are encouraged to keep their appointments, get vaccinated, and visit [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.aap.org/healthychildren) (the American Academy of Pediatrics Parenting website) for more information.

Anti-Racism Fight Club: From Classrooms to Communities

Doyin (doe-ween) Richards is a best-selling diversity author, member of the NBC TODAY Show's Parenting Team, TEDx Speaker, and creator of the critically-acclaimed Anti-Racism Fight Club workshop. He will speak to us on Tuesday, February 8th about how to be an anti-racist teacher and create an environment that creates anti-racist students.

02/08/22 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM **Registration Deadline:** 01/31/22
<https://www.salccc.org/provider-services/training/events/detail/523>

Child Care Connection Referral Service

Beginning in January, vacancy update calls will be made by our Referral Specialist, Becky. This phone call is made annually to obtain vacancy totals in each age group category. If you have any changes (rates, phone number, email address, hours, etc.), please contact Becky to update that information. The Referral email address is referrals@salccc.org and the phone number is 309-686-3750, option 3. Thank you for providing child care to our communities!



For information on any of our programs and services

3425 N. Dries Ln. Peoria, IL 61604
(309) 686-3750 Fax: (309) 686-3850

Visit our Website at: www.salccc.org

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/salchildcaeconnection



For CCAP information choose Option 2 For help in finding childcare call Becky @ Option 3

For a Quality visit call Christy or Catrina @ Option 9 For information on becoming a new provider call Stephanie @ Option 6



The Mitten

Based on the story by Jan Brett
Tune: The Farmer in the Dell

The mitten's on the ground.
The mitten's on the ground.
Hi-ho! It's cold outside.
The mitten's on the ground.
The (mole burrows) in.
The (mole burrows) in.
Hi-ho! It's cold outside.
The (mole burrows) in.

(Continue with:
rabbit hops,
hedgehog snuffles.
owl swoops,
badger climbs,
fox trots,
bear lumbers,
mouse wriggles in)

Adapted from a poem by Can Teach

