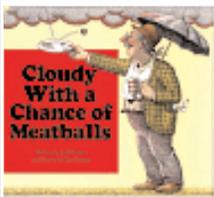


STORY STRETCHERS

Connecting Books to Hands-on Activities with Young Children

Looking for something interesting to do with your children? Read these books with your kids at home, then stretch the stories into fun with these home activities!

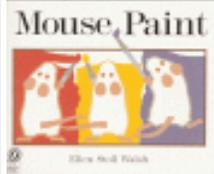


Title: Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs **Author:** Judi Barret, et.al

Age Range: Preschool - 8 years

Story: *In the land of “Chewandswallow”, meals rain from the sky at appropriate times of the day, but a change in weather blows in massive problems...*

Suggested Home Activity: Look through magazines or newspapers with your child and cut out pictures of food and people. Together, make a collage of your own version of the story. Talk about what kinds of food you would like to eat in certain kinds of weather. (You will need magazines/newspapers, scissors, glue, paper for the collage, and children ready to have fun!)



Title: Mouse Paint

Author: Ellen Stoll Walsh

Age Range: Preschool

Story: *Three clever white mice outsmart a cat while dabbling in different colors of paint. By accident, they discover that primary colors (red, yellow, and blue) mix to make other fabulous colors.*

Suggested Home Activity: Make “mice” by gluing (or taping) eyes and a tail onto white cotton balls. You can buy googly eyes in craft stores, or you can cut small eyes out of paper. Use small pieces of yarn for the tail. Pour non-toxic paint into three shallow dishes - one dish for red paint, one for yellow, and one for blue. With your children, dip the “mice” into the paint and make them “walk” across a piece of white paper. Your child will discover what happens when colors are mixed. (You will need cotton balls, yarn, paper, paint, and a place to make a mess!)



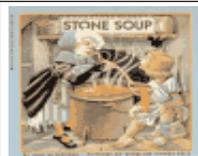
Title: Fun/No Fun

Author: James Stevenson

Age Range: Preschool - 8 years

Story: *Fun is watching a thunderstorm coming; no fun is when the storm arrives and lightning crashes. Beside simple contrasts, Stevenson gets across the surprising way the happiest moments can suddenly turn into opposites.*

Suggested Home Activity: You and your child can each draw pictures of things you think are fun, and not fun. Make your own book! (You will need paper, and crayons or markers.)



Title: Stone Soup

Author: Ann McGovern

Age Range: Preschool - 8 Years

Story: *A simple story about a young wayfarer who tricks an old woman into making “Stone Soup.”*

Suggested Home Activity: Make some Stone Stoup as you read the book, adding the ingredients when the book does. Have your child help you with the recipe; s/he can help count, measuring, pour, etc. Enjoy the soup together! (You will need to read through the book first to find out which ingredients you will need for the soup.)

These ideas were adapted, with permission, from the Web site: www.youcanteach.com. Visit this site for other ideas and activities for parents to do with their young children.

--The Title I Dissemination Project, 2002--