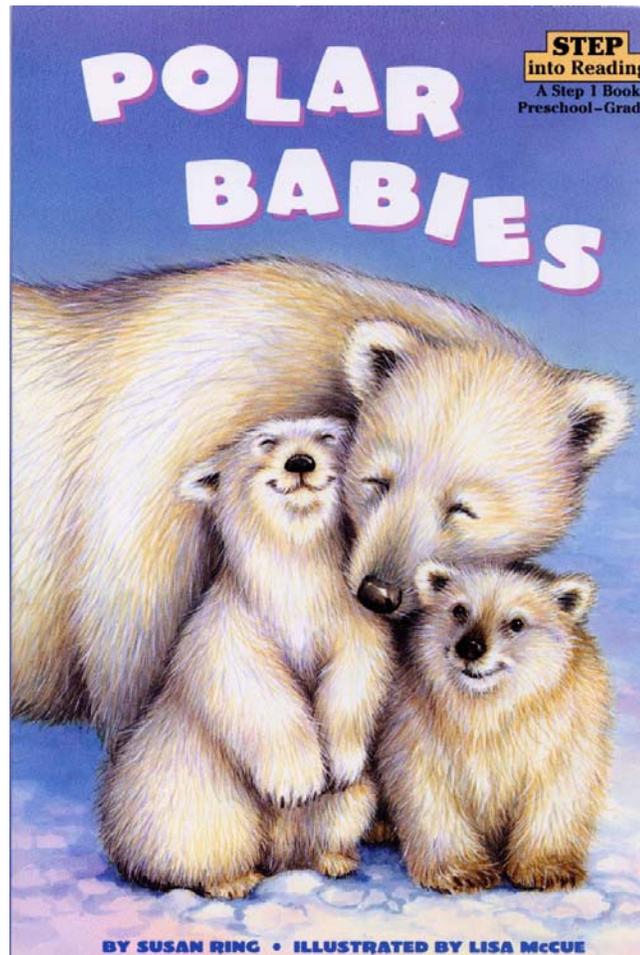


Books in the Home Program



Polar Babies

by
Susan Ring

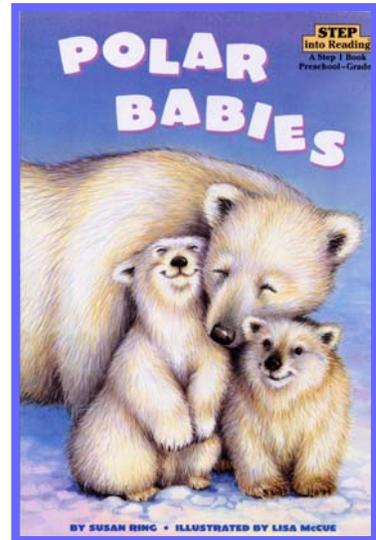
Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Copies of <i>Polar Babies</i>	2
What You Will Need for This Session	3
Session Overview	4
Alphabet Scavenger Hunt	6
Games, Games, Games	7
Reading and Writing	8
Recipe for Perfect Playdough	10
Activities to Do at Home with Your Children	11
Literacy Action Plan: <i>Polar Babies</i>	12
Arctic Animals Word Search	13
Arctic Memory Game	14
Fishy Fun	15
The Polar Bear's Den	16
Find The Baby's Mother	17
Colour the Polar Bears	18
Polar Bear Facts	19
Did You Know . . .? Polar Bear Cards	21
Coloring and Writing Activity	22
Word Games You Can Play At Home: Scattergories	23
Word Games You Can Play At Home: Crazy Word Chains	24
Word Games You Can Play At Home: Charades	25
NWT Literacy Council	26



Copies of *Polar Babies*

If you would like to buy more copies of the book *Polar Babies*, you can contact your local bookstore.



The Book Cellar (867) 920-2220

Yellowknife 1-800-944-6029

Pages (867) 874-3331

Hay River

Boreal Bookstore (867) 777-3748

Inuvik

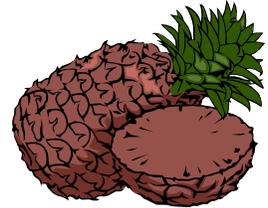
North of 60 Books (867) 872-2606

Fort Smith



What You Will Need for This Session

- A copy of *Polar Babies* for each family in the program
- A journal for parents
- Prizes for the *Alphabet Scavenger Hunt*
- Copies of the *Games, Games, Games* handout
- Copies of the *Reading and Writing* handout
- Copies of the *Perfect Playdough* recipe
- Copies of the *Activities to Do at Home with Your Children* handout
- Copies of the *Literacy Action Plan* handout
- Craft materials—crayons, glue, scissors, paper, etc.
- *Polar Babies* activities in this kit
 - ★ Arctic Animals Word Search
 - ★ Arctic Memory Game
 - ★ Fishy Fun
 - ★ The Polar Bear's Den
 - ★ Find the Baby's Mother
 - ★ Colour the Polar Bears
 - ★ Polar Bear Facts
 - ★ Did You Know. . .? Polar Bear Cards
 - ★ Polar Bear Colouring and Writing Activity
 - ★ Word Games You Can Play at Home
 - Scattergories
 - Crazy Word Chains
 - Charades



Snack of the Week— Cottage Cheese & Pineapple Rollups

Mix 1 tub of cottage cheese and 1/2 tin of crushed pineapple together. Spread on slices of bread. Roll the bread up into sausage shapes. Enjoy!



Session Overview

Introductions

- **Warm Up Activity**—Do a warm up activity with participants. There are instructions for an *Alphabet Scavenger Hunt* included in this kit (see p. 6).
- **Expectations**—Ask parents what their expectations of the evening are. Flipchart the responses and then try to meet those expectations.
- **Group Agreements**— Review the Group Agreements.

Group Brainstorm & Discussion

- Review what happened during the week
 - What kinds of literacy activities did you do at home last week?
 - Did you follow your action plan?
 - How did it go?
- Brainstorm how games can be used to help children with literacy.
 - Can you play the *Alphabet Scavenger Hunt* game at home with your children?
 - Give out the *Games, Games, Games* handout and the *Reading and Writing* handout
 - Go over them with the participants

Tip of the Week—Games

For your activity this week make a game or activity for parents to take home and use with their children.

Games are great ways to get children involved in reading and literacy activities. Or bring in some board games for families to play together at the end of the evening.



***Polar Babies* by Susan Ring**

- Introduce the book.
- Read the book together as a group.
- Discuss the book as a group.
- Brainstorm activities related to this book that parents can do at home with their children.
- Make an activity related to the story that families can use at home.
- Give out handouts related to the book and review the activities together. Make sure you go over each activity and show parents how to do them.

Adult Writing

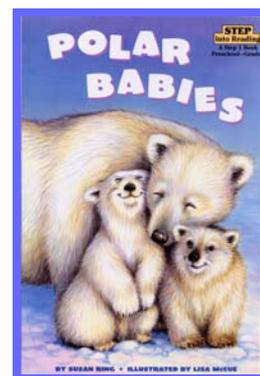
- Have parents review the weekly Literacy Action Plan for next week.
- Have parents write down one thing in their journals that they learned this evening and then share it with the group, if they want to.

Wrap Up

- Ask the participants for feedback on the session: “What did you like about the session? What did you not like?”

Story Time

- Have children come back from their reading circle to spend time reading with their parents.
- Gather everyone together and read one more story or teach the poems to everyone.



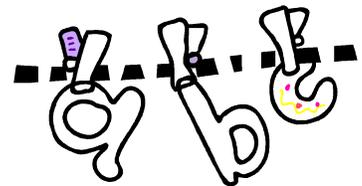
Nutritional Snack

- Take a break for a nutritional snack and drinks.



Alphabet Scavenger Hunt

1. Divide participants into groups of 2 or 3.
2. They must use all 26 letters of the alphabet for the scavenger hunt.
3. In their groups, participants try to find something in the room that they can see that begins with each letter of the alphabet. They need only one thing for each letter.
4. The first group to find things for all 26 letters reads out their words. If the words are all OK, this group is the winner. If any are not OK, the game continues until another group finishes.



Games, Games, Games

Reading and Writing Games and Puzzles



Playing games and doing puzzles is a way that parents can help their children learn. It's also a time for parents and children to have fun together.

Reading Games

- ★ Reading games come in all different varieties. You can buy them at the store or you can make your own.
- ★ Play games often! Set aside a “Games Night” to play together.
- ★ Games you can buy: Junior Scrabble, Alphabet Bingo and Boggle are some of them. Also, playing games like Monopoly is a chance for your child to use some of their reading skills.
- ★ Games you can make: alphabet puzzles, alphabet match ups, and alphabet memory are just a few.



Why should we play games?

- ★ Children learn by playing.
- ★ Games and puzzles are fun.
- ★ Children learn to read without even thinking about it.
- ★ Children gain confidence.
- ★ When parents and children spend time playing games together, the child learns he/she is loved, respected and valued.



Reading and Writing

Games You Can Make

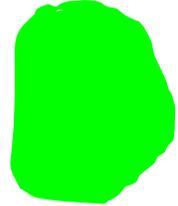
- ★ Alphabet playdough – Use the recipe for Perfect Playdough and make playdough. Use the playdough to make alphabet letters. Have your child close her eyes and try to identify the letter by feeling the shape
- ★ Alphabet puzzle – Use index cards and write a letter of the alphabet on each card, a capital letter on the left and the lowercase letter on the right. Now cut the cards in half with different patterns, mix them up, and have your child match the pairs up again.
- ★ Make a book – an alphabet book, or favourite food book, for example. Print a letter of the alphabet on each page of a book. Have your child draw pictures of things that begin with that letter of the alphabet. You can also give your child scissors and catalogues or magazines to cut out pictures.
- ★ Connect the dots – Do a large dot-to-dot of your child's name on a piece of paper and have your child connect the dots to write their name.



Recipe for Perfect Playdough

You will need:

- ★ 1 cup water (add food colouring, if you wish)
- ★ 1 tablespoon (tbsp) vegetable oil
- ★ ½ cup salt
- ★ ½ cup flour
- ★ 2 teaspoons (tsp) cream of tartar



Here is what you do:

1. Heat the oil in the pot first.
2. Then add all the other ingredients at the same time.
3. Heat and stir the mixture until it starts to thicken and form into a lumpy pile.
4. Take the pot off the stove and put the playdough in a bowl and knead it until it is smooth.
5. It is now ready to be played with. Have fun!



Activities to Do at Home with Your Children

- ★ Tell your child a riddle. For example, "I'm furry and I meow and purr softly. What am I?"
- ★ Make snowflakes out of white paper with your child. Decorate the snowflakes with paint and silver glitter.
- ★ Take time to play outside today. Fill spray bottles with different shades of food colouring. Help your child create a painting, using the snow as your canvas.
- ★ Go outside and make snow angels together. Talk about winter.
- ★ Help your child write a recipe for a snack like the rollups in this kit. Then help her to follow the directions to make the snack.
- ★ Make an icy sun catcher. Half fill a small tray with water. Lay a piece of string in the tray, with about four inches in the water and about six inches out of the water. Add bits of leaves or berries, yarn or whatever you wish. Lay the tray outdoors to freeze. Remove from the tray and hang from a tree or a hook.



These are all great family literacy activities that you can do with your children!



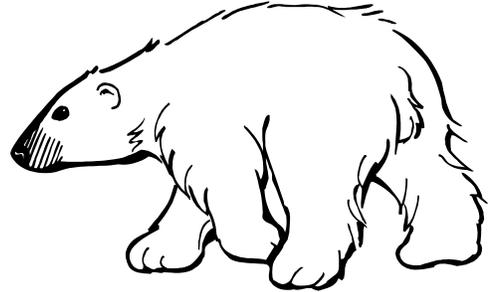
Literacy Action Plan: *Polar Babies*

Monday

- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ play the memory game together
- ___ colour a picture together

Tuesday

- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ tell stories about polar bears
- ___ do a craft together



Wednesday

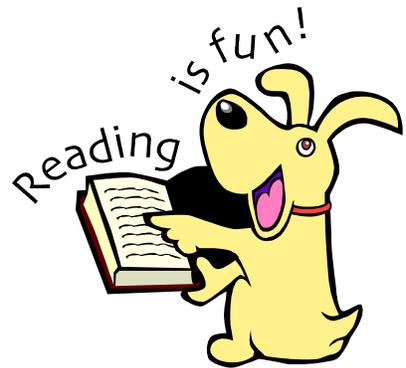
- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ read the polar bear fact together
- ___ look at other books about polar bears

Thursday

- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ do the maze
- ___ do the shapes activity

Friday

- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ make up a story about polar bears
- ___ illustrate the story



Saturday

- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ bake something special today
- ___ make a shopping list together

Sunday

- ___ read together for 15 minutes
- ___ go for a walk on the land
- ___ tell stories to your child



Arctic Animals Word Search

Look across, down and diagonally to find the words. Circle them when you find them, then cross them off the list.

g e s o o g w o n s n c o o k
r b b c d x u w q e y n l z u
e h e r a h c i t c r a o w o
e l l e m m i n g e e o k o b
n m u s k o x h e s p i z l i
l q g o e q f d f l l v p v r
a l a s k a n m a l m u t e a
n w w y j i o n e h f r d r c
d o h k e o k r w f k x c i r
s y a r s t w s i m r t e n p
h w l e o h u n h o i u p e f
a o e n a r c t i c t e r n g
r n w l l e n m f b k d w n n
k s e a u c p o l a r b e a r
c a w r b v x o e m p b i e t

Arctic fox
Arctic hare
Arctic tern
beluga whale
caribou
Greenland shark
killer whale
lemming
moose
musk ox

polar bear
puffin
reindeer
seal
snow goose
snowy owl
walrus
wolverine
zoo plankton



Fishy Fun

Cut out the fish at the bottom of the page. Glue each fish into the tank that has the same shape as the fish.

