

CURRICULUM BUILDERS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHILD CARE RESOURCE SERVICE

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

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www.crs.ymca.org

SUPPORTING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



ABOUT THE STORY

The Rain Came Down

By: David Shannon

On Saturday morning, the rain came down. It made the chickens squawk, but that's only the beginning. Before the sun comes out again, an entire neighborhood is in a crabby uproar. The owner of the beauty parlor squabbles with the barber, who argues with the painter, who has just accidentally bonked the barber in the head with his paint can. Then the baker unintentionally pokes the pizza man in the nose with his umbrella, and *they* start quarreling. Soon, "the whole block was honking, yelling, bickering, and barking." There's no end in sight... until the rain stops, the sun comes out, the air smells fresh and sweet, and a rainbow appears. Before they know it, the bickerers are helping each other clean up the mess caused by the ruckus, and everyone's smiling again.

STORY STRETCHERS

While reading the story, ask children open ended questions that will encourage comprehension and deeper thinking. Below are some questions to ask.

- Why is everyone so upset?
- How does the rain make you feel?
- Where does the rain come from?
- What happens when the rain stops coming down?

CRS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Curriculum Resource books and toys are available to check out at our library. Call 619-521-3055 ext. 2304 to make a library appointment.

WEB SITES

Here are some websites to give you more curriculum ideas:

<http://www.preschool-plan-it.com/preschool-rain-theme.html>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/music/rainstick/>

<http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/rain.html>

CONNECT WITH US!

Learn about upcoming events, Wellness Wednesday, Frugal Friday and more:

www.facebook.com/YMCA.CRS

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SEASONS AND WEATHER THEME BOX

Children learn all about seasons and weather with comprehensive, hands-on lessons that span the curriculum. From a rain gauge and thermometer to snowflake stencils and sorting mats, this theme box is packed with materials that help children explore the four seasons and learn about weather—from thunderstorms to rainbows.



This item may be checked out at the YMCA CRS Resource and Toy Lending Library.

DRAMATIC PLAY GET ON YOUR RAIN GEAR

Provide large pieces of brown and blue felt to use as puddles on the floor. Add rain coats, hats, rubber boots and small and safe umbrellas. Discuss with children the things that they like to do on a rainy day.

Extension: Play a CD that have rain and thunder sounds available.

Tip: Secure felt puddles to floor by using colored duct tape around the edges. This will assist in making sure that when children jump onto the “puddles,” the felt will not move from beneath them.



MATH RAINDROP COUNTING

For an easy counting center with a rain theme laminate ten umbrella shapes and write a number from one to ten on each one. Then place a different number of raindrops from one to ten on ten index cards and have the students match the umbrellas with the card that has the corresponding number of raindrops



MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

THE RAINSTORM

Oh Look! It's getting cloudy
(put hands up and sway like clouds)
What's that? Was it a drip of rain?
(squat down, pause, then stand up, pause and repeat)
Oh, now it's very misty!
(rub hands together to make a misting noise as you move together)
Oh No! It's pouring out!
(Slap your hands against your legs as you move around to make rain noise)
Is that thunder I hear?
(Stomp around in the circle)
The storm is leaving...
(do the actions in reverse)
Phew, it's nice out again! Now we can play outside!
(Jump up and down)

RAIN

Pitter pat, pitter pat (drum fingers on floor)
The rain goes on for hours.
And though it keeps me in the house,
(hold hands palms up and closed into fists in front of you)
It's very good for flowers.
(open fists and lift hands imitating growing flowers)

RAINSTICK

A percussion instrument made from a dried cactus branch that is hollowed out, filled with small pebbles, and capped at both ends. When slightly tilted, it makes the sound of falling rain.



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