

**GUIDE SHEET: BOOK**

**TITLE: THE MITTEN**

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**Program 2**

**Supporting Your Child’s Development:** This folktale will help your child learn new vocabulary words and reason things out, as she/he thinks about whether so many animals could truly fit into a mitten, as well as following the clues about which animal will move into the mitten next. By thinking about these questions, and talking about them with your child, you will be helping your child’s **cognitive development**. Besides following the story, you can help your child to discover all the details in the highly complex illustrations. Don’t miss carefully examining the very last illustration, where one mitten is much bigger than the other one. By discussing with your child why that happened, your child is **problem-solving** and recalling all the events of the story. These tasks are an important part of **early literacy**, **reading readiness**, and **school readiness**.

**Remember the following when reading a book with your child:**

* Have a good time with this book and the child!
* Invite the child to look and listen.
* Try to sit the child beside you or between you and your ParentChild+ Early Learning Specialist.
* Show and read the title page to the child.
* Show and describe to the child how to turn the pages and treat the book.
* Read to the child in a clear, easy voice. Don’t go too fast. Allow time for the child to think about the story.
* Stop at most illustrations to talk about them. Ask the child questions about the illustrations to help the child reason things out.

**Encourage the child to point out and name:**

* **Colors: White** mittens, **brown** bear, **red** hat, **blue** belt
* **Shapes and Sizes: Large** bear, **tiny** mouse, **long** tail, **round** eyes, **pointy** talons
* **Numbers: Two** mittens, **eight** animals
* **Relationships:** The animals are **inside** the mitten; the mouse is **on top of** the bear’s nose; the rabbit is **next to** the mole
* **Textures: Soft** mitten, **sharp** claws, **prickly** hedgehog

**Invite the child to tell about experiences related to the story and pictures**:

* Do you wear mittens in the winter? What color are they?
* What animals have you seen outside?
* Have you left footprints in the snow (or sand, or dirt)?
* What do you wear to keep warm?
* What happens when you sneeze? What does a sneeze sound like?

**Have the child reason things out and make choices:**

* What animal feels soft? What animal feels prickly? Which animal would you like to pet, and why?
* Which animals could really fit into a mitten? Would a mouse fit? Could a bear really fit? Why not?
* Why did one mitten get so big, and the other mitten stay small? Which mitten will still fit the boy’s hand? How do you know?
* How do you know which animal will crawl next into the mitten?
* Which animal would you choose as a pet? Why?

**Remember throughout the home visit to:**

*ENCOURAGE* the child to talk.*PRAISE*the child for doing well.

*ASK*the child questions. *HELP*the child when needed.

*LISTEN*to the child’s answers. *RESPOND* to the child’s answers.

**Fun activities:**

* Have your child hop like a rabbit, hoot like an owl, walk like a bear, run like a fox, etc.
* Draw the outlines of several mittens, and have your child glue scraps of fabric, scrunched-up tissue paper, and/or cotton balls to give the mittens different looks and textures.