Books we shared today:

**Jonny Lambert’s On the Farm**
by Jonny Lambert

**Five Little Ducks**
by Ailie Busby

**Who is Making a Mess?**
by Maria D’Haene

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**Reading Readiness Tips:**

Books like *On the Farm* have lift-the-flap elements which encourage children to interact with them. When children are more motivated in a book, they will have greater early literacy success.

Brain activity is stimulated when a child hears their name. When you are teaching or reinforcing words, say the most important word directly after you say their name. For instance, when you want a child to learn a color, you can say “Ali, Green” while pointing to the color green.

Incorporating these 2 practices into your routine will help children be more prepared to read and succeed!

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**Sleeping Bunnies**

See the bunnies sleeping 
Till it’s nearly noon. *(pretend to be sleeping)*
Shall we go and wake them 
With a merry tune? 
They’re so still! Are they ill? 
No! Wake Up little bunnies! *(hop or make a bunny with your pointer and index finger)*
Hop little bunnies, hop little bunnies 
Hop little bunnies, hop hop hop! 
Hop little bunnies, hop little bunnies 
Hop little bunnies, hop hop hop!

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**Pennsylvania Core Standards—English Language Arts**

**Foundations Skills:** CC.1.1.PK.A, B, C, D

**Reading Informational Text:** CC.1.2.PK.A, B, E, F, G, I, J, K

**Writing:** CC.1.4.PK.M, O, P

**Speaking & Listening:** CC.1.5.PK.A, B, C, D, E, G

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December 2021
Lesson Extensions

Related Readings

**Animals**
by Rilla Alexander

Tactile images of animals engage children in this board book.

**Sharing**
by Yusuke Yonezu

Support socio-emotional development as well as math skills with this lift the flap board book.

**Baby's First Kind Words**
by Hsinping Pan

Vibrant, simple images paired with short phrases or words support emotional development.

**S is for Snow**
by Ashley Marie Mireles

An ABC book perfect for winter. Supports vocabulary development as well as letter knowledge.

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Additional Activities

**Conversation to have this month**

Parent Child Interactions: Strive for Five!

Many families know that children acquire language through interacting, but sometimes they are looking for some guidelines. **Strive for Five** is a popular strategy for having engaging conversations with young children. Observation is key, so start with a statement which states the activity or object the child is engaged with. (This is a red ball!!) The child will respond with their own reaction (Red ball!!), which gives the parent a chance to either ask a question or make a statement.

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**Sensory/Fine Motor/Math Skills**

**Feed the Snowman**

- Permanent marker
- Clear plastic container, with an opening larger than 3”
- Large play tongs
- Cotton balls

This can be a circle time activity or a supervised individual activity. Draw a snowman face on the clear container, and place a supply of cotton balls in a basket or tray. Let children take turns or work individually to create a snowman by asking a child to place a certain number of cotton balls in the snowman. For instance, you could ask a child how old they are, and then have them use the tongs to “feed” the same number of cotton balls to the snowman.

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**Art/Fine Motor**

**Mitten Lacing Cards**

- Cardboard or foam sheets
- Yarn
- Holepunch
- Tape

This is a great activity to pair with The Mitten folktale, or just to celebrate the return of cold weather. Cut out a large mitten shape from the cardboard or foam sheet. Punch several holes all around the edges of the mitten. Take a length of yarn and wrap one end with clear tape. Give students the opportunity to “sew” the mitten back together, weaving the yarn in and out all around the mitten.