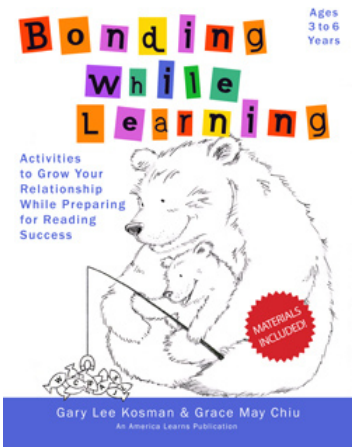


# Bonding While Learning: Wintertime Activities

[www.americlearns.net/families.htm](http://www.americlearns.net/families.htm)



## Alphabet Snow People

### WHEN TO USE THIS ACTIVITY:

You can help your child identify letter formations and discover that letters are all around as you're building snow people together!

### ACTIVITY 1

As you and your child build your snow person, you'll find that some of the items you use to make the eyes, nose, mouth and other parts of the body look just like letters. For example, the eyes may look like **O's** and the smiling mouth may resemble a **U**.

As you and your child add these items, note to your child, "Hey, the eyes look just like **O's**!" You could also say, "Tasha, wow, the eyes on our snowman look just like a certain letter in the alphabet. What's the name of that letter?"

Ask your child to tell you which other letters he sees as you build your snow person together.

### ACTIVITY 2

Alternatively, after you and your child finish building your snow person, ask him to search for letter formations in it.

For example, you could say, "I see something that looks just like the letter **O** on our snowman. Do you see it?"

If your child needs to refresh his memory on what an **O** looks like, trace the letter in the snow so he can see it, and then ask your child to trace his finger over the letter you made. Now ask your child to search for the object that resembles an **O**.

If your child needs additional support, walk over to the snow person together and point out the object you were looking at. You could say, "This is what I was looking at, Max. Our snowman's eyes look just like the letter **O**. Do you see that?"

### OUT-AND-ABOUT EXTENSION ACTIVITY

You and your child can discover letter formations anywhere you go – while you're driving, while standing in line, or while taking a walk. The snow and ice make especially interesting formations. Spend a few minutes searching for letter formations with your child every now and then. You can even take pictures of the formations you see and make a scrapbook. You can also keep track of how many formations each of you see (a great game for siblings to play with one another on long drives).

# Paint the Snow!

## WHEN TO USE THIS ACTIVITY:

Use this fun outdoors activity to help your child practice writing the letters of the alphabet or words she is just beginning to spell.

## MATERIALS

- One or more empty plastic spray bottles (a clean, empty hairspray bottle will work well)
- Water
- Food coloring

## STEP 1:

Fill at least one empty plastic spray bottle with water and your child's favorite color of food coloring.

## STEP 2:

### If your child is learning her letters:

Select one letter your child is learning and review it together, showing your child what it looks like and saying its name and sound together. If you have a copy of *Bonding While Learning*, you can use the Alphabet Letter and Picture Sheets beginning on page 99 for this.

Ask your child to write or trace the letters. If you have a copy of *Bonding While Learning*, you can use the Alphabet Letter Formation Motion prompts on pages 94 and 95 if you think they will help your child as she writes.

### If your child is beginning to spell:

Select one word your child is learning, write it in large print on a piece of paper, and say the word together. Ask your child to either write the word on her own or to trace the word you wrote a couple of times.

## STEP 3:

Tell your child that since she has done such a great job reviewing her letter or word, she now gets to paint the snow with that letter or word!

Walk outside, hand your child the spray bottle, and ask her to spray the letter or word you just reviewed on the snow. If she has a tough time, you can outline the letter or word in the snow with dots and then ask your child to connect the dots. She can then try painting the letter or word on her own.

## STEP 4:

Let your child's imagination soar and encourage her to paint the snow any other way she'd like to.

## ***Bonding While Learning Reviews***

"Finally, anyone looking for educational activities to do with their kids has to look no further than this book!"

- Stacy DeBroff  
CEO, Mom Central, Inc.

"This book is beneficial to every child who is lucky enough to have a parent, a grandparent, or an older sibling to take the time to use it.... I know of no other outside-the-classroom literacy resource for young children and their families that's so thorough and yet so easy to understand and use immediately."

- Dorothy Aronoff  
Preschool & elementary teacher of more than 30 years

"As a former kindergarten teacher, preschool teacher, and NAEYC-accredited preschool program director, but most importantly as the parent of a preschooler, I wholeheartedly recommend this book to anyone who wants to work one-on-one with a child to help develop early literacy skills. Many parents turn to flash cards and workbooks, but young children learn much more readily and easily through developmentally appropriate games and fun activities. Finally, here is a resource that explains this to parents in clear, easy-to-understand language, using concrete examples and materials with which you can simply cut out of the book and play. If you are truly interested in preparing a child for reading success, I also recommend THE READ-ALoud HANDBOOK by Jim Trelease, which educates the reader on how to make the most of the read-aloud experience. These two books complement each other well and could be great blessings to any preschooler or kindergartener whose parents/grandparents would take the time to read and use them."

- Posted by a reader on Amazon.com in Nov. 2007

"I believe that your book's philosophy is inspiring and great for schools as well as for individual families. Thank you for making such an outstanding book for our teachers and families."

- Carol Bovil  
Director, Mann Family Early Childhood Center; Los Angeles, CA

"Wow this book is really great! I loved the fact that in the beginning it gave important information about the book and the authors. It is also great that it explains how to praise your child for their accomplishments. The activities and the materials provided were easy to understand and work with and provided time for me to sit down individually with my child and work on them. He was very excited to work on the different projects and we often did more than one at a time at his request."

- iParenting Media Awards Reviewer

"This book has been a welcome addition to our household. I had been worried that my youngest of three sons (age 4) was not getting enough individual attention in our homeschooling.... *Bonding While Learning* provided the perfect opportunity to spend quality time cuddling with him on the couch while feeling confident that I was "officially" educating him...."

"It is exciting to see an educational resource that values the time parents spend with children, promoting "bonding" as an important component in academic progress. I also appreciate the fact that *Bonding While Learning* is not stuck on an age-appropriate timeline. Realizing that children do not learn in a cookie-cutter style, the authors encourage parents to use the activities in any order that works for them and their unique child...."

- Deborah Burt  
The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC (June 2007)

"I have given two books to friends becoming grandmothers and they loved the book. We all think it's a fabulous tool to interact with your children and or grandchildren. I will be purchasing more in the future."

- Leslie Loudon  
Henderson, NV

Get your copy at [www.americalearns.net/families.htm](http://www.americalearns.net/families.htm) or by calling 310-689.0542.