StickMan By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
Theme: Celebrate family and friends  (Dec 2013)

Stickman just wants to get back to the family tree for Christmas. On his journey people find many uses for Stickman. Eventually Stickman helps someone very special and finds his way back home.

Key Message for Parents: Children’s well being is critical to brain development and learning
- Children can learn more effectively when they feel valued and cared for and their needs are being met
- Children benefit from being given opportunities to interact with others so they can learn to play together and make friends
- Storytime is a great chance for adults and children to develop social relationships

Learning Outcome 4: Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children feel recognized and respected for who they are
- Children empathise with and express concern for others
- Children begin to develop the ability to express their emotions, thoughts and views about a story

Welcome
Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.
Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.
Sing Welcome Song (or your preferred song)
Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher’s paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good morning/afternoon
Good morning to you
Good morning to you
Good morning everybody
And welcome to you!
**Song**  
**Slap And Clap**

Can you make a rhythm? You can clap and slap your knees, clap and slap, clap and slap. Once you get the rhythm you can do the chant like this:

Run, run as fast as you can  
You can’t catch me  
I am the Stickman!  
Run, run as fast as you can  
You can’t catch me  
I am the Stickman!

Now let’s get ready to read! Remind children about how good listeners listen to a story: sitting still, hands in your laps, lips still, ears open to listen and eyes on the book.

**Before Reading**
This story is called ‘Stickman’ and is written by Julia Donaldson. It is illustrated by Axel Scheffler. You may know some other books that are written and illustrated by the same people. Can you name any?

Have a look at the front cover and the back cover together, what can you see? This is Stickman and his family. Can you see his children? They live in the woods and they like to play outside, the front and back cover, the title page and the first page of the book show them playing different things, have a look at the pictures together. What games do you like to play outside? Let’s read the story together and find out what happens to Stickman.

If you have a few sticks or pipe cleaners, you could make a stickman who you could hold while you are reading the story.

**During reading**
Stickman is used by many people for different things, as you read you might like to pause to identify stickman in each picture: here he is on the beach, on a sandcastle, as a sword.

The story encourages reader participation: join in with the ‘I’m stickman, I’m stickman’, I’m STICKMAN that’s me parts, getting a little bit louder with each part of the phrase.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
After reading
What did the people use Stickman for? Was Stickman feeling happy? What did he really want to do?

Who did Stickman help at the end of the story? How did that special person help Stickman?

On the last page Stickman and his family are together again. There are three presents for the three children. I wonder what would be inside the presents? What do you think would be a good present for a stickperson?

Song

Let’s sing a song to the tune of the chorus of ‘Jingle Bells’

Stickman’s here, Stickman’s there, Stickman he is everywhere
I’m a Stickman can’t you see
Let me go home to my tree!

Stickman’s here, Stickman’s there, Stickman he is everywhere
I’m a Stickman can’t you see
I’m heading away from my family!

Stickman’s here, Stickman’s there, Stickman he is everywhere
I’m a Stickman can’t you see
I’ll help you in the chimney!

Stickman’s here, Stickman’s there, Stickman he is everywhere
I’m a Stickman can’t you see
Now I’m home and I’m happy!
Activity Time
Make a Stick Man!

Materials needed:
- Glue
- Textas
- Pipecleaners / sticks

Use a pipecleaner for a body, one for two arms and one for two legs. You can add features such as eyes, clothing using fabric scraps, wool or paper.
Alternatively, use a stick that you have found outside.

Here are some examples:

Extension ideas
- Go for a nature walk, find some natural treasures: stick, pebble, leaf.
- You might like to make a collage using natural objects
- Play a mystery game where you hide an object in a bag or box and with your eyes closed you feel the object and try to guess what it is
- Discuss or draw your own family tree
- Sing some Christmas songs like ‘We Wish you a Merry Christmas’

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Goodbye
Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children.

- NoBot The Robot With No Bottome by Sue Hendra
- The Worst Princess by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie
- When No-one’s Looking On The Farm by Zana Fraillon and Lucia Masciullo

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child’s name in the last line rather than ‘library friends‘ as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye Song
This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)
Say goodbye, say goodbye
This is the way we say goodbye
To all our library friends (or :) to our friend…….)

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