**Book Activities for Toddlers**  
November/December 2018

**Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter** by Kenard Pak is a wonderful book to use to introduce toddlers to changing seasons. A simple story of how the world changes from colorful autumn to white winter. Beautiful illustrations show a brother and sister walk around outdoors. As they make their way through their neighborhood they greet the falling leaves, watch birds fly south and notice thickening clouds. All of these signs of changing seasons give way to the snow, frost and ice of winter as they wake up to a cold, frosty winter morning.

You can help children develop essential early literacy skills by reading, talking, writing, singing and playing with them every day. Use the following suggestions as you share **Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter**.

### Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story

**Before the Story**
- *Introduce the story:* This is a story about a brother and sister that go on a walk and discover the changing seasons.
- Look at the cover. What kind of weather do you see?
- How does it make you feel?
- What types of clothing do you wear in the winter?
- What colors do the leaves turn in the autumn?
- How do you know winter is coming?

**After the Story**
- What did the children see on their walk?
- In the story the children built a snowman. Have you ever built something in the snow?
- What sounds do the leaves make when you walk through them?
- What did some of the animals do in the winter?
- What does snow feel like when it touches your skin?
- Do you like autumn or winter weather?

### Introduce New Vocabulary and Concepts

Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will help expand children’s vocabulary, develop their background knowledge and enhance future read alouds.

- **autumn:** fall
- **stables:** where a horse lives
- **shiver:** wiggle
- **frost:** icy
- **eaves:** roof
- **muffle:** quiet

This book provides a way to introduce changing seasons.
Engage Toddlers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities

Using Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter

- Make a fall sensory bottle. Pour colored rice and some fall gems into an empty water bottle. Hot glue the lid. Talk about what you see in the bottle. Count the objects.
- Make a fall-letter find sensory bin. Using a large shoebox, add beans and fall items that you’ve gathered from outside. Write letters on store bought colored fall leaves and hide them among the items in the shoebox. Invite children to dig through the box to find the lettered leaves.
- Write letters in snow. Gather a few trays or cookie sheets. Spray a dollop of white shaving cream into the center. Invite children to smooth out the foam and practice writing letters or shapes.
- Pretend ice-skating. Invite each child to place their feet on two paper plates (one foot on one plate). Play some lively music and invite children to move around the room, sliding their feet along as if they are skating.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Seasons

Autumn
Autumn winds begin to blow. (blow)
Colored leaves fall fast and slow. (fall motion with fingers)
Twirling, whirling, all around, (turn around)
Till at last, they touch the ground. (fall to the ground)

Changing Seasons
(Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")
I'm a little person who's aware.
Of the change in the air.
First the leaves turn brown and then they fall.
Then the snow comes lightly down.

I'm a Nut
I'm an acorn, small and round,
Lying on the cold, cold ground.
People pass and step on me,
That's why I'm all cracked, you see.
I'm a nut, (clap, clap)
I'm a nut, (clap, clap)
I'm a nut, (clap, clap)

Frost
Little Jackie Jack Frost pinched my nose.
Little Jackie Jack Frost pinched my toes.
But I ran in the house and shut the door,
And he couldn't pinch my nose anymore.

The Mittens On My Hands
(Tune: "Wheels on the Bus")
The mittens on my hands,
Keep me warm,
Keep me warm,
Keep me warm,
The mittens on my hands,
Keep me warm,
All winter long.

Jack Frost
Where did you get that little red nose?
Jack Frost kissed it I suppose.
He kissed it once. He kissed it twice.
Poor little nose it's as cold as ice.

Snowflake Dance
(Tune: "Are You Sleeping?")
Dance like snowflakes,
Dance like snowflakes.
In the air,
In the air.
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes.
Here and there,
Here and there.