

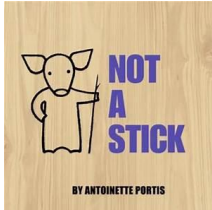


BOOKMATES'

LOVE, LAUGH, LEARN: Weekly Literacy Resources



Not a Stick by Antoinette Portis



This is a fun book to read that demonstrates how a simple stick can turn into whatever you want through the power of imagination!

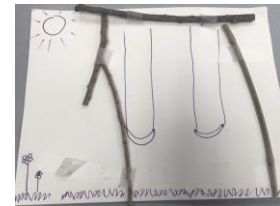
If you don't have the book at home, copy and paste this link to have the book read to you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpMBQnCujCQ>

Whether or not you read the book, try these activities. There is a lot to be learned in playing with sticks!

Creative Stick Art

Materials needed: sticks, paper, crayons/paint/markers, tape or glue

Have the children go outside and gather sticks. Once the children have selected a few, come back inside and have each child tape their sticks to the sheet of paper.



The children then use their imaginations to turn the sticks into something that is "not a stick". This process is simple for the children and yet challenging too! When the children finish their drawings, have each child dictate a story about their stick. You can start the story with, "It's not a stick. It's a...." and the children complete the sentence. A process like this is simple yet promotes great opportunity for storytelling and imagination!

Rainbow Math Sticks



Materials needed: Sticks, paint/nail polish/markers, carrot peeler (optional)

Sticks can be all be different lengths or cut into the same size. Colour the ends of the sticks (Note: the colour will be brighter if you peel the ends of the sticks first. This can be done with a carrot peeler!) Children will play with these in different ways. They may sort them by size, colour or make shapes out of them. Little children will pick them up and carry them around an outdoor space. Some children may turn them into mixers in a patch of mud. They may become wands, batons, animals, paintbrushes. That doesn't matter. Let them play with the sticks in their own way – they are learning in the process!

GET ACTIVE!!!

- Find larger sticks and gallop around like you are riding a horse!
- Climb a tree or balance on a log
- Bring old pots or containers out – use sticks as musical instruments!
- Go for a walk and collect as many different kinds and sizes of sticks as you can

SING TOGETHER!

Planting Flowers

(Sung to the tune: Frere Jacques)



Planting flowers, planting flowers, *(hold sticks and pretend they are flowers)*

In the ground, in the ground, *(stick them in the ground)*

Water them and they will grow, *(pretend to water "plants")*

Water them and they will grow,

All around, all around!



One, Two Caribou

(Adaptation of One, Two Buckle My Shoe)

One, Two, caribou *(hold hands up on head like antlers)*

Three, Four fishing by the shore *(pretend you are casting a fishing line)*

Five, Six pick up sticks *(pretend you are picking up sticks)*

Seven, Eight, bannock we make *(pretend to knead the dough)*

Nine, Ten, camping again! *(make a tent formation above your head)*

Need a laugh? Try this joke with your child:

What does a tree do when it wants to go home?
Answer: It leaves!



Literacy Tip of the week: Get Outside and Play!

Outdoor play is an important part of childhood. It allows children to get fresh air and explore the natural world in a hands-on way. The positive impact of nature, however, goes beyond play and fresh air, when children play outside they:

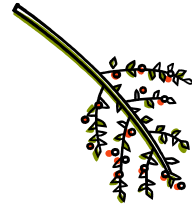
- Develop large and small motor skills – this is needed to be able to hold a pencil and learn to write
- Learn using all 5 senses. Science supports that this is the best way children can process information
- Learn about the world, make decisions, cooperate with others, invent and follow rules, and have fun while learning
- Understand nature, weather, seasons, and the awesome variety of plants and animals. This enhances their imagination and curiosity about the world around them

Activities You Can Do Outside With Your Child

- Go for a nature walk and talk about the things you see
- Set up a scavenger hunt
- Play with a ball
- Try a messy art activity outside
- Observe and identify all the sounds you hear
- Read a book outside
- Have a picnic



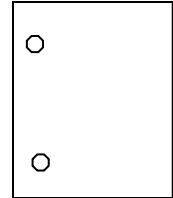
Make Your Own Book:



This week's book: A "Twig" Book

Materials needed: paper, markers or crayons, hole punch, elastics and twigs

Take several pieces of paper. Put them in a pile and punch two holes along one side.



Put a rubber band end through each of the holes. Lay a twig over the holes and loop the elastic around both ends of the twig.



Decorate the pages as you like – tell a story, do leaf rubbings, write or draw things you observe. The great thing about this book is that you can always remove or add pages as you go along as the elastics can be removed from the twig at any time to release the binding!

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