

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

By Judi Barrett

A funny breakfast occurrence causes Grandpa to tell his grandchildren the story of a town called Chewandswallow, where the weather brings meals from the sky.

BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them to describe the man on the cover of the book.

WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
 - ⇒What kind of weather are we having today?
 - ⇒What kind of stories do your parents or grandparents tell you?
 - ⇒What things fall from the sky where you live?

AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒What kinds of foods fell from the sky in Chewandswallow?
- ⇒What happened to the leftover food in Chewandswallow?
- ⇒How do you think the children felt when a giant pancake fell on their school?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs.”

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MATH AND SCIENCE

Talk about the different kinds of weather. Talk about snow, rain, lightning, thunder, sun, and wind. Ask the children what kind of weather they like best. Ask them what they wear for different kinds of weather. Keep track of the weather for a week by marking a chart each day.

READING READINESS

Help the children come up with different foods that start with the same letter of the child's name. For example, Molly might say "meatballs, mayonnaise, mustard, and meatloaf."

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

As a group, sing "If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops, oh what a life I would lead! Standing outside with my mouth open wide, Eh eh eh eh eh eh eh eh eh eh! If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops, oh what a life I would lead!" Continue to sing using "If all the snowflakes were candy bars and milkshakes" and "If all the sun beams were bubble gum and ice cream." For an example of someone singing this song, take a look at the following YouTube clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNvL_5COptM

MOTOR SKILLS

Have the children use food to build. Provide the children with whatever snack foods are available and see what they can make. Use foods like graham crackers, saltines, peanut butter, pretzel rods, marshmallows, etc. (Note: If there are children in your child care facility with peanut allergies, low-fat cream cheese is a good alternative.) Have them try to make a house or a boat, or maybe even small people.

THINKING SKILLS

Discuss with the children the positives and negatives of living in a town like Chewandswallow. Why would they want to live in a town where food fell from the sky? Why would they not want to live in such a town? What problems could the falling food cause?

ART

Have the children draw pictures of what kinds of foods they would want to fall from the sky if they lived in Chewandswallow. Remind them that they would need breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and drinks.

PRETEND PLAY

Pretend you and the children live in Chewandswallow. Act out what you would do with all of the extra food. Pretend to use foods to make a boat to escape.

