

# FAMILY EVENT ACTIVITIES

## Poetry Reef

Help create a wonderful legacy of reading and sharing poetry aloud. Start by having students and their families agree to read poetry aloud together each day. It's really quite simple to start a poetry wave. It doesn't take too much time (15 minutes each day), you don't have to drive anywhere, there is no equipment, you just pick up a book.

Create a poets' corner at your Family Event and bring your community together with a poetry read aloud. Students, parents, grandparents, and teachers recite their favorite poems out loud. Get everyone into the act! Clap, stomp, and make sound effects. Let everyone read along.

### Some classic favorites:

*Wynken, Blynken, and Nod; The Dream Ship* by Eugene Field

*The Walrus and the Carpenter* by Lewis Carroll

*The Octopus; The Eel* by Ogden Nash

*The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*The Chambered Nautilus* by Oliver Wendell Holmes

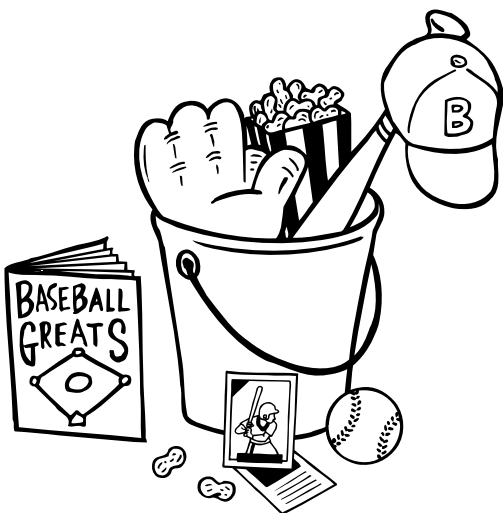
## Fish

How I wish  
I were a fish!  
My day would begin  
Flapping my fins.  
I'd make a commotion  
Out in the ocean.  
It would be cool  
To swim in a school.  
In the sea,  
I'd move so free,  
With just one thought:  
Don't get caught!

**POEM**

## A Whale of a Tale in a Pail

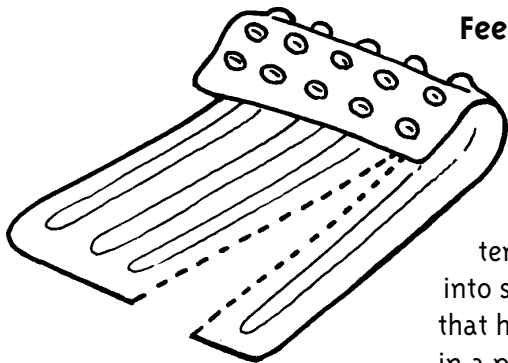
Your Family Event audience will be eager to watch great performances. Students prepare a five-minute oral book report. For a whale of a tale in a pail, each gathers a collection of objects (a minimum of five) described in his/her book. Then each child fills a pail with artifacts that illustrate the story's happenings and meanings. For items too large to fit in a pail, an instant camera can record items or kids can create soap sculpture of characters. During the oral report, students pull out the artifacts, one at a time, while they describe their stories.



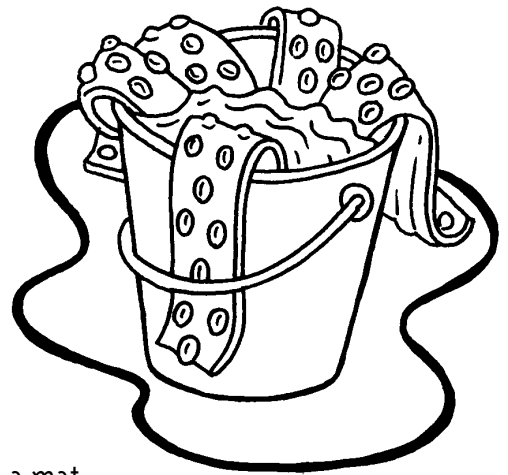
# DISCOVERY TABLE

Turn a corner of your Book Fair into an undersea playground and explore a deep-sea realm. It's easy to set the stage for a fabulous sensory and discovery table. Hang green crepe paper streamers from the ceiling for algae. Wrap pillows in brown sacks to create rocks. Play an audio tape of ocean sounds. Decorate with posters and drawings of ocean plants and animals. Read and play!

## Feel Those Octopus Arms



An octopus has eight long arms. It has small sucking cups on each arm (tentacles) that help it catch its food. What do tentacles feel like? Cut an old bath mat into strips, preferable eight long ones. Use a mat that has small suction cups on the bottom. Put them in a pail with water and let kids feel those octopus arms.



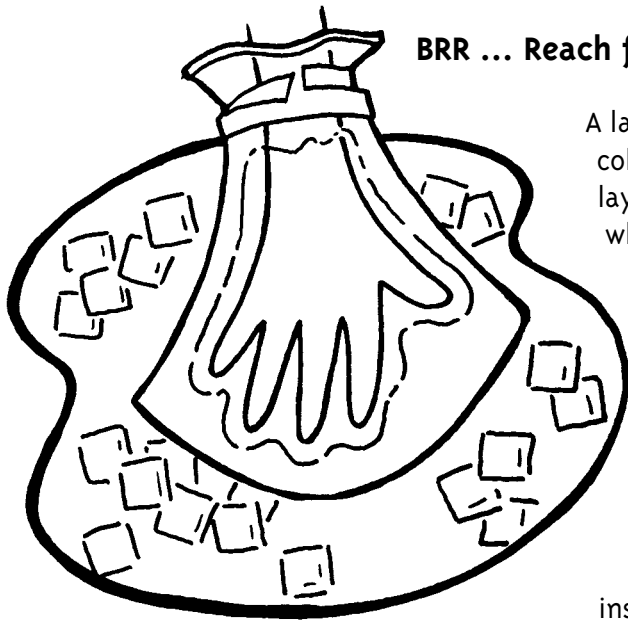
## Bubbles, Bubbles, and More Bubbles

Bubble fun is easy to stir up. Simply mix together 6 parts water, 2 parts dishwashing liquid, and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -part corn syrup. Have kids experiment with a variety of homemade bubble wands: pipe cleaners bent into interesting shapes, cookie cutters, yogurt lids with the centers cut out, and more!

## What's the View Like Under There?

Open a milk or juice carton at both ends. Cut off the end of carton, then wrap a large piece of plastic wrap around the bottom. Secure with duct tape or rubber band. Place the covered end in a deep pail filled with shells, rocks, and other sea treasure to see what's hidden just below the surface.





## BRR ... Reach for the Blubber Gloves

A layer of blubber is excellent protection against the cold. Walrus, whales, and seals have thick protective layers of blubber to help to keep them warm. To feel what it's like to have a layer of blubber to keep warm, try this fun and simple experiment. You'll need:

- Shortening
- Large plastic freezer storage bags
- Smaller plastic sandwich bags
- Plastic buckets of ice water

Fill a large plastic freezer storage bag about six inches full of shortening. Then turn another large bag inside out. Place it carefully inside the bag with the shortening so that you are able to zip the one bag to the other. This creates a blubber glove for you to put your hand in.

Put your bare hand in the bowl of cold water and feel just how cold it is! Have students time one another to see how long they can withstand the cold. Can you stand it for ten seconds?

Next, place your hand in the blubber glove and then place your mittened hand in the ice water. How cold does the water seem with the blubber glove on? Can you immerse your hand for more than ten seconds?

## Wave in a Bottle

Create a wave in a bottle. Use a long narrow bottle or jar with a tight-fitting cap. Fill the bottle 2/3 full of water and add a couple drops of blue food coloring. Fill the rest of the bottle with vegetable oil. Tightly screw the cap back on. Turn the bottle on its side and gently rock back and forth. Enjoy the waves!

