

Theme Ideas for Take-Home Activity Kits

Incredible Edibles

Include a number of picture books—*Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett, *Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* by Jon Scieszka, *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss, *Watch Out For The Chicken Feet in Your Soup* by Tomie dePaola—and longer chapter books, such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roal Dahl.

It's About Time

Include books about telling time, science activities with sundials, and nonfiction books about clocks.

What's So Funny?

The theme of this kit is humor. Fill the bag with joke and riddle books, humorous folk tales such as *What's So Funny Keto?* by Verna Aardema, *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens, *Some Smug Slug* by Pamela Duncan Edwards.

Dragon Fire

This kit is devoted to dragons. Look for picture books such as *Raising Dragons* by Jerdine Nolan; search the Internet for more. Include books about Chinese New Year and the Dragon Dance, and nonfiction about the Komodo Dragon. A great read aloud for younger children is *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannette.

Spiders, Bugs, and Creepy Crawlies

The contents of this kit can focus on all sorts of insects. Books with lots of real pictures are best. Include an EyeWitness Video or DVD (e.g., *Butterfly and Moth*). National Geographic has a great reference for children: *My First Pocket Guide to Insects*. Include a viewing jar or magnifying glass.

Weird and Wonderful Weather

You will have no trouble finding lots of books suitable for this theme: *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett, *Weather Facts* by Usborne, *Weather At Your Fingertips* by Judy Naylor, *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco, *EyeWitness Weather* by Brian Cosgrove, *The Magic School Bus Inside A Hurricane* by Joanna Cole. You can also include books with science experiments and some materials or a log book in which to record the results. Add a blank calendar for keeping track of the weather.

Ocean Treasures

Books abound for this theme: *The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor* by Joanna Cole, *The Sign of the Seahorse* by Graham Base, *Hello Ocean* by Munoz Ryan, *Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes, and *Zoom At Sea* by Tim Wynne-Jones are just a few of the picture books available. Be sure to have some nonfiction as well. Include a treasure bag with shells and beach stones, and an ocean journal.