I Am Small by Emma Dodd – This is one of the newest books in Dodd’s lovely series about the bond between parents and children. These books make wonderful sleepy time stories because they are very reassuring and calming for toddlers and older children too. Ages 1-5.

Up & Down a lift-the-flap book by Britta Teckentrup – Using an incredibly inventive format, this simple story teaches children about prepositions (up, down, under, over, etc.) and illustrates clearly how little penguin navigates his ocean world to find his friend. Clever! Ages 3-6.

More books featuring Penguins!

Baby Penguins Love their Mama! By Melissa Guion – Sweet little story about a family of penguins. Ages 2-5.

Flora and the Penguin by Molly Idle – An inventive story about a very graceful little girl and her ice skating friend. Ages 3-5.

Flight School by Lita Judge – Penguin has always wanted to fly like the other birds, claiming he has a “soul of an eagle” but he can never seem to last long off the ground until his teachers come up with a creative solution...ages 4-7.

Fluff and Billy by Nicola Killen – A story of best friends who do everything together and alike, until they get into a small fight. Ages 2-4.


If You Were a Penguin by Wendell Minor – Describes what children could do if they were penguins and introduces some unusual penguin facts for very young children. Ages 2-5.

A Penguin Story by Antoinette Portis – Edna the penguin’s world is very plain – white, black, and blue. She knows there has to be more to the world than those three colors and leaves in search of the answer. A fun story about exploration and discovery. Ages 3-6.
Two Little Penguins from Storytime Crafts by Kathryn Totten

Two little penguins sitting on the ice (hold up two fingers)
One bows once, the other bows twice (make index fingers bow)
Waddle little penguins, waddle away (put fingers behind back)
Come back penguins, time to play! (bring fingers to the front)

Did You Ever See a Penguin?
Sing to the tune “Did you ever see a lassie?”
Did you ever see a penguin,
A penguin, a penguin?
Did you ever see a penguin
Waddle this way and that?
Waddle this way and that way,
Waddle this way and that way,
Did you ever see a penguin,
Waddle this way and that?
Invite children to get up and move like penguins as you sing.

LEARNING IDEAS FOR JANUARY

Penguin Habitat Sensory Play
Although Emperor Penguins live in Antarctica where it is very cold, there are many different types of penguins and they don’t all live in the cold climates. For specific information about penguin habitat’s, diet, species, etc. check out this web page:
http://www.defenders.org/penguins/basic-facts
(the Galapagos Penguin actually lives in the tropical Galapagos Islands off South America)

Once you’ve talked with your children about the different habitats of penguins, create examples of each in small clear plastic sensory boxes.
Get 3 medium size clear boxes -
• For Antarctica, add in ice cubes
• For South Africa and the Galapagos Islands, add in sand, some rocks, and greenery
• For sub-Antarctica, add rocks

Include plastic penguins in each of the habitat boxes. See if you can find some photos of each habitat to help illustrate the differences even more for children. Have fun!

My Penguin: Practicing Shapes and Colors
Find some pictures of penguins either in children’s picture books or photographs and discuss the colors and shapes children can see when they look at the pictures. Once they’ve seen examples, they can then design and create their own penguins.

What you need:
• Construction paper
• Glue
• Scissors
• Markers

Give children different shapes in black and white (or let them cut out and create their own shapes OR both!). After children have created their own penguin friends, ask them what their penguin’s name is and write it on their paper (or ask them to write it if they can).
• You can extend this activity as much as you like, even asking children to write or tell a story about their penguin.