



UNIT **Shadows and Reflections**, Unit 7, Week 1

THEME My Shadow and Me

BOOK *Whistle for Willie* by Ezra Jack Keats

READING ON YOUTUBE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBdxTwATdPM>

OLLIE'S QUESTION Why do we see shadows?

LITERACY GOALS To identify sounds of the letter Aa (as in day, grape)

MATH GOALS To name plane shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle)

CONCEPT WORDS These words are basic words that relate to the theme and concept for each week. These words help with discussing the question of the week.

between	Space that separates two objects
dark	Having little or no light
light	A source of brightness that helps us see things
shadow	Dark shape made when someone or something blocks the light
sidewalk	A place to walk on the side of the street
wall	Side of a building or a room

AMAZING WORDS These words increase and improve children's vocabularies and understanding of the text and world around them.

entertain	Help people have fun
errand	A trip to do or get something
practice	Do something over and over until you learn it
pretend	Make believe something is real when it is not
whirl	Turn or spin around quickly
whistle	Make a high-pitched sound by blowing air through your lips

Other Book Suggestions and YouTube Recommendations:

- *Shadow Night* by Kay Chora <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usvE9C1Bvn8>
- *Bear Shadow* by Frank Asch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9Ur_L8PdWs
- *Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow* by Ann Tompert
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_Q-oCpOSPQ

Ideas for At Home Activities:

Pretend & Learn	Provide props (puppets, dress-up clothes, etc.) for your child to act out scenes from one of the books you read together recently.
ABC	Look through a newspaper or magazine with your child to find the letter Aa. Show your child how to highlight the letters as they find them. Read the words your child found that contain the letter Aa.
Writing	Make a book by stapling 13 sheets of paper together. Ask your child to write one letter of the alphabet on each page, front and back. Then together think of words that begin with each letter and write the words on each page. Your child can draw pictures with crayons or markers to represent those words. When finished, ask your child to “read” the book to you, saying the letter and describing the drawing.
Math	Shape scavenger hunt. Your child can go from room to room looking for objects that are triangle, square, rectangle, and circle shaped. Provide your child with paper and markers or crayons to draw the items they find.
Science/Social Studies	Watch shadows grow. Place pieces of paper on a table or other hard surface in a sunny place outside. Ask your child to choose and place toys of different heights in front of a piece of paper. He/she places a mark on the paper at the top of the shadow. Check the shadows at various times of the day – early morning, mid-morning, noon, mid-afternoon, early evening – and mark where the shadow ends each time. Point out when the shadow moves to a different side of the toy. Ask your child how and why they think the shadow is now on the other side of the toy.
Art	Create and draw shadows. Tape a large piece of white paper onto the wall. Your child can choose toys of different heights and line them up on the floor a few feet from the wall. Shine a flashlight or lamp on the animals so a shadow is cast onto the wall. Move the light closer or farther away to see how the shadows change. Children can trace around the shadows on the paper with markers or pencils.

Sensory	Fill a plastic dishpan or tub halfway full of sand. Gather small items from around the house (buttons, small toys, rocks) of different shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle) and hide them in the sand. As your child digs to find items in the sand, ask them to tell you the shape of each item they find.
Building	Collect cardboard boxes of different sizes and shapes for your child to create a town. Suggest they include different types of buildings such as stores, houses, churches, apartment, and office buildings. Get creative with the types of boxes - shoe boxes, cereal boxes, Jell-O boxes, and potato chip cans.
Social-Emotional Activity	Play "Simon Says" with your child. This is a great game to help children practice skills like listening carefully and following directions. Explain to your child that you are playing a game and they need to listen closely to the directions. You can introduce the game by saying, "I am going to tell you something to do, but you only do it if I say "Simon Says" first. If I do not say "Simon Says" you do not do the movement. Give them examples like, "Simon Says touch your ear" and "jump up and down." Give your child lots of opportunities to follow directions as you play. Then let your child be the leader and you follow their directions.

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