**Great hands-on activities that help to further explore the books!**

Pairing a hands-on activity with a book after you read it is a great way for preschoolers to comprehend what happened in the story.

It provides an opportunity for you to discuss the lessons that the book is sharing with us, and helps children form a stronger memory of the story.

From art to color sorting to fine motor, the following are fun activities based on a popular picture book for you to experience along with your little ones!

We would love for you to share how you used these activities and any additional activities that you might have used to support the learning from your favorite children’s book.

Feel free to post ideas and pictures on our Facebook page at:

[www.Facebook.com/borninglearning](http://www.Facebook.com/borninglearning)
Please Write Back!

About the Story:

In *Please Write Back!*, Alfie writes a letter to his grandma- going through all the steps of letter writing addressing and stamping by himself- and then waits anxiously for her reply. Finally, he gets something. But it’s not the letter he expected, it’s a package!

What you will like about the book:

With the appeal of a bright green croc that has expressive eyes and the concept of sending and receiving mail, this book is bound to capture the interest of youngsters. In an indirect way, this book emphasizes the human need for communication, and the letter as a still viable means of communicating.

Conversation Starters:

- "Who would you want to write a letter to?"
- "How would you feel if someone would write you a letter?"
- "What are other ways of communicating with another person?"
- "Why do you think it's important for people to communicate with each other?"

So, this is a perfect opportunity to teach the kids that sometimes, they just have to wait patiently. It can be as simple as that.

Ways to Interact with the Book...

Waiting
Discuss times in life when we have to wait. Have the children think of a time when they had to wait for something, such as a bus, or their birthday party. Talk about ways to pass the time when we are waiting for something to happen. Why are some ways better than others? Have the children draw a picture of a good way to pass the time while they are waiting.

Letter Writing
Discuss the main parts of a letter; the salutation, the body and the closing. Have the children write a letter to a family member or friend using the letter template attached.

Make an Envelope
This is a great addendum to the letter writing activity above. Discuss the parts of a properly addressed envelope; the address, return address and the postage. Discuss why we use addresses and how they help the postal service deliver our mail. Have the children address an envelope to a friend after they have written them a letter. The children can use real stamps and actually mail their letters, or they can use stickers in place of real stamps (and you can hand deliver).
Learning Activities:

After reading this simple story, extend the story and support sensory skills by doing a feely box activity. Just as Alfie was anxious to find what was in his box, you can take turns feeling an item in a box and guessing what it might be. You can simply use a box and hold it high enough that the children can’t see – though someone will always try to peek! You can create a simple feely box by securing a sock around the top of an empty oatmeal canister. Then, cut the end of the sock, so that a hand can reach through it and into the box. You could also make one with a small square box, using an inexpensive (and/or outgrown) stocking cap in the same manner. Stretch it around the sides and then cut a slit in the top for a hand to reach through.

Gather items Alfie’s grandmother might have sent (toy car, toothbrush, ball, marker, etc.). Talk about the items so that the children have a reference point. Then conceal them and stealthily add one to the box before giving the children turns to feel and guess.

Feely boxes enhance cognitive skills and the child’s sense of touch. It also taps into some sensory integration as the information they are gathering through their hands is compared with visual images they are recalling through memory. Building sensory skills is important because we gather and process information through our senses. It’s part of the process of inquiry or scientific method. So what seems to be fun guessing game is actually building cognitive skills! I love it when that happens.
What does Alfie see in the sky?
Dear,

Your friend,