

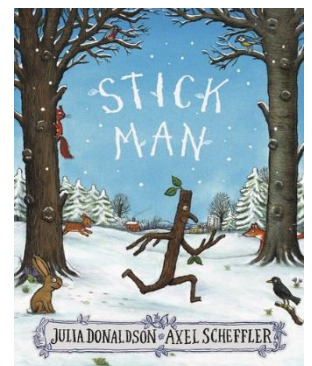


## *Stick Man*

written by Julia Donaldson,  
Illustrated by Axel Scheffler

### 1 – Introducing the book

- Look closely at the picture of the family tree where Stick Man and his family live. What is it like? Do you think the family tree might be home to anyone else as well as the stick family? Talk about the kinds of animals, birds and insects that might live in or around different parts of the tree. You could also set the role play area up as the family tree – with brown paper on the walls that children can draw on like the stick children do, and if possible, provide a range of natural materials such as pine cones and leaves which can be explored and used for doing printing/rubbings with.
- How does Stick Man feel when he sets off for his jog? How do you know? Look at how his expressions change through the story, for example when the snowman melts and he wonders if he will ever get back to the family tree.
- Draw children's attention to what time of year it is by looking closely at the pictures. For example, at the start it is Spring: the leaves are green and there is blossom on the branches. Later it must be Summer as it is hot enough for people to be swimming in the sea and playing on the beach. Later the leaves on the trees have turned brown in the Autumn, and gradually the children in the pictures begin to be wrapped up in warmer clothes to indicate Winter is coming.
- What is the problem with Stick Man sleeping in the grate? Who do you think is stuck in the chimney? Which chimney do you think is the last one that Santa plans to visit?
- Draw children's attention to the rhyming words in the story. The rhyming pairs could be written on lolly sticks, and then children challenged to match the sticks that go together.





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### 2 – A Sticky Situation

- Show children the pictures of the stick family from title and end pages. Provide a range of materials for children to make their own stick families. They could collect twigs to use, or start with lolly sticks, pipe cleaners or kitchen roll tubes. Googly eyes, scraps of fabric, wool, felt and coloured paper will all help to bring the stick family to life. Alternatively, you could provide card and split pins for children to make stick people with moveable arms and legs.
- Go out on a stick hunt and then look closely at the sticks the children have found. Can they arrange them in size order? Depending on the outdoor facilities available, children could be encouraged to work in small groups to build an outside shelter from sticks, leaves, moss etc for Stick Man to use while he is away from the family tree. If the sticks are cut down to the same length, children could use them to measure different distances in and around the classroom.
- Use sticks of a similar size to create a frame for weaving. An adult should fix the frame together using thin wire or string. Provide strips of material or ribbon and show children how to weave the strips over and under the sticks. Alternatively, you could fix two sticks together in a cross, and then children could weave lengths of wool around them to make 'God's Eye' decorations.





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### 3 – The Adventures of Stick Man

- Stick man gets frustrated at all the things he is used for, from a flag pole to a sword, to a pen to a boomerang. Ask children to brainstorm what else you might use a stick for? They could then draw a corresponding picture to go with this, and write a sentence about what happens to Stick Men at this point in his adventure.
- Encourage children to make 'missing' posters to help the Stick family to locate Stick Man. The poster could feature either a drawing of Stick Man, or a photo of the Stick Man the child has made.
- Children could put themselves in the role of Stick Man, and write a postcard home to the Stick Family telling them about his adventures.

