

# RILEY'S WORLD

## NEWSLETTER™



# 'Tis the Season to be Chilly!

**BRRRRRR! Winter is here!** So far we haven't had much snow where I live, but it has been really cold and icy! The temperature has been below freezing (which is 32 degrees Fahrenheit, 0 degrees Celsius) for many days.

When I put on my winter coat from last year, I discovered it was much

too small for me. Sophie's snowsuit was too small for her, too. We also had lots of hats, gloves and mittens that didn't fit us anymore.

Before we went to the store to buy new winter clothes, I helped my mother pack up the old ones and we donated them to a local shelter. The people who run the shelter were very

happy to get them! They told us that many children in our area and all across the country don't have warm clothes for winter.

That gave my mother and me an idea, and we went to my school to see if we could start a new school holiday tradition—which brings me to my neighborhood news!



## News From Around the Neighborhood

Our new tradition was a great success! Every student in my class was asked to buy new gloves, mittens, a scarf or a warm hat to donate to the shelter. Then, instead of lights or ornaments, we decorated the school holiday tree with winter accessories. We took a vote to come up with a name for the tree. The winning name was the Warm Hearts Tree.

We put a big box next to the tree and asked students to bring in the winter coats their families were no longer using.

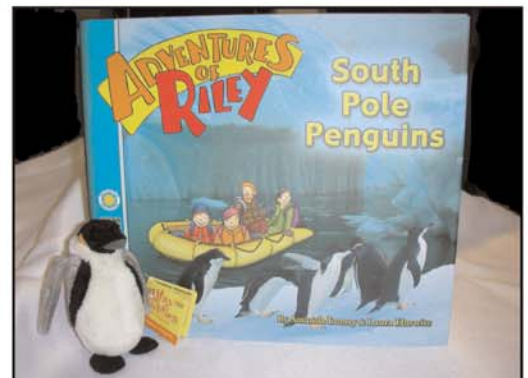
My class went by bus to bring the coats and accessories to the shelter, and they were so happy to get them. Keeping your community warm is a great way to show you care—and reusing resources, like coats, is a terrific way to recycle!

### RILEY'S FUN FACT

When a baby kangaroo is born, it is about the size of a lima bean!

## Free Holiday Gift for Members!

Riley's World members will receive **10 percent off the purchase of any two *Adventures of Riley* books** on the Eaglemont Press website! With the purchase, members will receive a **free mini penguin stuffed animal from Wild Republic!** Just have your parents go to [www.eaglemont.com](http://www.eaglemont.com) and enter in coupon code **RWNEWSLETTER2** when prompted during checkout.





# Fun Felt Mittens



This is a fun craft that requires no sewing! You can hang it as an ornament on your holiday tree or just place it in your window as a winter decoration.

You will need:

- Felt
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Washable black marker
- Glitter glue and fabric markers

First, lay out the piece of felt. Use your favorite color! The felt piece should be big enough for you to trace both your hands on the single piece of felt. Lay your hand on the felt with your fingers together and your thumb sticking out. This way, when your hand is traced, it looks like you are wearing a mitten. You

might need an adult to help with the tracing part.

When you have both hands traced, either cut the felt yourself using safety scissors, or ask an adult to help cut the outline. Now you have your mittens!



Decorate the mittens with glitter glue or fabric markers. You can decorate both sides—just make sure each side is dry before turning it over. Have fun, and use your imagination—I drew lots of snowmen and snowflakes on mine!

Then, have an adult helper take scissors and cut an 18" piece of yarn as well as a small opening in the bottom (where the wrist would be) in each felt mitten. Weave the yarn through both mittens and knot the ends, so they are connected and the yarn is secure.

If you decide to hang your mittens, they should be pointing finger-end down. Be sure to put your name and date on the mittens. That way, if you make felt mittens again next winter, you can see how much your hands have grown!

## "Corny" Disappearing Cheese Tomato Soup

What you need:

- 1 can of cream of tomato soup
- 1 cup of grated cheese (cheddar works great, but you can substitute your favorite cheese)
- 1 handful of popped popcorn

Prepare tomato soup according to the directions on the can. You'll need an adult to help because the soup has to be hot enough to reach a slow boil. While the soup is still very hot, ask an adult to help you pour it into a bowl.

Here is where the magic starts! Take a cup of grated cheese and add it to the bowl of hot soup. Using a soup spoon, stir the cheese and watch it swirl and then disappear! Let the soup cool for a few minutes, then, for fun, instead of crackers, add a handful of popcorn to float on the top. The popcorn makes it fun and different, plus my mother said it has fiber, which is very good for you.

This recipe should be enough for two hungry people, so share it with a friend!



Kids at Oklahoma City Zoo enjoy a Riley book during Storytime Safari!

### Want to be in a future newsletter?

Send Riley a photo of you reading one of his books or completing your favorite Riley activity. Digital photos are preferred. Original photos will not be returned. Send your photo to [info@eaglemont.com](mailto:info@eaglemont.com) or to the address below. Be sure to include your name, age and the state you live in.



EagleMont Press • 13228 NE 20th Street, Suite 300 • Bellevue, WA 98005 • (425) 462-6618

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