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Activity Guide

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Don't Forget the Bacon!

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ABOUT THE STORY

Asked by his mother to go to the store and return with four items, a young boy becomes distracted by the things he sees on his errands and buys the wrong items. On the trip home, he realizes his mistake and corrects them, only to discover on his return that he has, in fact, forgotten the bacon.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Pat Hutchins tends to see the humorous side of any situation and has the ability to capture it in words and illustrations. In the same vein as *Don't Forget the Bacon!* are her equally popular books, *Rosie's Walk*, *Follow That Bus!* and *The Very Worst Monster*. Ms. Hutchins lives in London, England with her husband and their two sons.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask the group if their mothers ever send them to the store. Do they have trouble remembering the things they are supposed to get? Is it easy or difficult to remember *other* things? In general, what are some good ways to remember?

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "What were the four things the boy's mother wanted from the store?"
- "What was the first thing he forgot?"
- "What was the second thing he forgot?"
- "What was the third?"
- "What caused the boy to forget the things he was supposed to remember?"

Matching

Draw the following three columns on the board. Ask members of the group to match the things the boy was supposed to remember in Column A with the things he saw in Columns B & C that caused him to forget. Ask them to draw lines connecting the three columns.

Column A

farm eggs
cake for tea
pound of pears

Column B

flight of stairs
fat legs
cape for me

Column C

rake for leaves
pile of chairs
clothes pegs

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Things That Rhyme

Ask members of the group to make up rhymes for various things needed at the store. Below is a list of possible items as well as a suggested list of possible rhymes.

Item	Rhyme
a quart of milk	a yard of silk
a bar of soap	a piece of rope
a pound of cheese	a bunch of bees
a jar of honey	a funny bunny
a loaf of bread	a big soft bed

Math: Memory Game

Start by having a member of the group name one item, for example, "one lawn mower". Then invite a member to name another item prefacing with the number "two". For example, "two pounds of butter". Keep going from one member to another, with each repeating exactly what has been said before and then adding another item beginning with the next highest number.

Language Arts: How to Remember

Suggest to the group that a good way to remember things is to think of other things that remind one of the items to be remembered. For example, it is easier to remember "milk" if one thinks of a "cow", easier to remember "bread" if one thinks of "butter". Name items to the group. Ask them to think of another thing that would remind them of the original item. Below are suggested items and possible reminders.

eggs	chickens
dog food	dog
hot dog	mustard
cereal	milk
bacon	eggs

Language Arts: Making Up a Story

Invite the group to participate in gradually making up a story. Each member takes a turn and contributes an additional line or two. Some suggested topics for stories follow.

- A Visit to the Zoo
- How We Made a Breakfast That No one Will Ever Forget
- The Great Snowball Fight
- The Day a Stray Dog Joined the Cast of our School Play