Stuck inside on a rainy day, a mother coaxes her son to enjoy the day inside by drawing a picture of the rainy day together. After drawing and talking, they decide to go outside and splash in the puddles. The entire story is told through the conversation between mother and son and models how to engage children in the rich conversations that develop language skills.

Activity Ideas for *Puddle*:

- A rainy day is a great opportunity to play outside with children. Let them splash in puddles, experience getting wet, and notice what is going on around them. If it’s not raining, pretend! Put on your rain boots and jacket, grab your umbrella, and talk about what happens when it rains. By engaging children in imaginative play and conversation, you help them expand their understanding of the world. They will use this knowledge to help them understand the books they read.

- What sounds does the rain make? When it’s raining, find containers to set outside, like plastic bowls, metal pans, or empty tin cans. Listen to the different sounds the raindrops make. You can also create rain sounds indoors. To make a rainstick, crumple a long thin piece of tinfoil into a stick, and put the foil in a paper towel tube. Add half a cup of rice to the tube, and securely cap each end with wax paper and tape. Slowly tip the tube and listen to the rice “rain” down inside. Paying attention to sounds enhances children’s listening skills.

- Sing or chant the song *Come Under My Umbrella* with children, holding a bed sheet, blanket, or parachute between you. Lift it up over your heads, or shake it to make storm sounds. Babies may enjoy laying down while you float a sheet above them. Parachute play allows children to practice following directions and strengthens gross motor skills.

  Come under my umbrella, umbrella, umbrella
  Come under my umbrella, it’s starting to rain
  There’s thunder and lightning, there’s thunder and lightning
  Come under my umbrella, it’s starting to rain

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The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit [http://www.clel.org](http://www.clel.org) and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.

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