

A Snow Good Experience

Derrick was excited. Kindergarten was cancelled this morning due to a snowstorm. He planned to go outside and build his very first "all by myself" snowman. He was now five years old and was strong enough to roll the sparkly clean snow into three balls the size of a bottom, middle, and head. His mother came outside with him, but he didn't want her help this time.

"I can do it myself, Mom," he called.

"Okay, sweetie," she said with a smile. He surely was growing up. Her breath made puffs of frost in front of her face as she proudly watched Derrick work. "Why don't I get you some clothes for the snowman?" she called.

"Okay, Mom," Derrick agreed.

Derrick's mom headed into the house. She gathered some buttons, a carrot, a scarf, mittens, and a hat. When she came back out, Derrick was lifting a large snowball onto an even bigger one.

Derrick's mom watched for a few minutes. She remembered that just last year Derrick wasn't quite strong enough to create the snowman himself. While she watched, he began to roll one more ball. This one was a little smaller. He carefully placed it on top of the other two.

"Okay, Mom. Let me have the stuff."

Derrick placed the buttons, scarf, and carrot on the snowman. He found some sticks to make arms. Then he attached the mittens. He stepped back to look at his new friend.

"Hey, Mom! What do you think?" he asked.



"I think it's terrific!" She answered. "Now, how about some hot chocolate?"
sounds yummy," Derrick replied as he ran into the house with her.

That night, Derrick looked out the window. The moon had cast a bright glow on the snowman. He snuggled under the covers. He thought, "Tomorrow, I'll build him some friends! What a great snow day this has been!"

Morning came, and school was cancelled again. Derrick jumped out of bed. He looked outside his window to check his snowman. What he saw made him very unhappy. The snowman had been knocked over! What had happened? He felt like crying. He ran to his mom.

"Mom, look! Someone knocked down my snowman." Derrick was so sad. He couldn't hold it any longer. He cried into his mom's arms.

Derrick's mom hugged him and tried to comfort him. She was also angry. Who would do such a thing?

"How about we go outside and fix him?" she suggested.

"Yeah! That

"No. He will just get knocked down again. I'm going to my room." Derrick stayed in his room for most of the morning. He muttered, "This has turned into a no-good day." His mom left him alone, but wished she could do something. Derrick was probably right. She could fix the snowman. However, it may get knocked down again.

She began to work in the kitchen. The kitchen window faced the front yard. There was not much going on. Many kids were playing, but Derrick was not interested.

Once when she glanced up, Derrick's mom saw some kids in their yard. They were some second and third graders from the neighborhood. They were by the snowman. She angrily headed to the door. She planned to get to the bottom of this! However, she stopped short. She looked more carefully. The children were fixing the snowman. They carefully added snow and rolled another head. Then they placed the hat, scarf and mittens on him.

Derrick's mom was touched. These kids were really thoughtful. Then she saw something odd. They were placing a sign around the snowman's neck.

When the kids left, she called Derrick. "Come here, sweetheart. Look at this!"

Derrick looked out the window. His eyes opened wide with surprise. He ran outside without his coat. He brought the sign back in. It said, "We saw somebody knock down your snowman. We fixed him for you! Nobody messes with our neighborhood snowmen!"

Derrick's eyes lit up. He was feeling much better. He looked back out the window. He could almost imagine the snowman winking at him! He was thankful for good friends. Derrick felt so good. This had really turned into a "snow good" experience!