Mice Skating is a wonderful story about a field mouse named Lucy who loves winter. She convinces her friends to come out of hibernation and experience the beauty and fun of the season.

**READ**

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder why a mouse would be out skating in the snow?

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

**Rare Words**
- field mice – mice that live in fields
- tunnel – a covered passageway
- burrowing – snuggling deep inside
- budge – to move
- scurried – moved at a quick pace
- teetered – moved unsteadily

**After:** Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What season of the year does Mice Skating take place?
- What do most field mice do during the cold winter months?
- What did Lucy love about winter?
- What did her friends love about winter?
- When Lucy would ask her friends to join her outside, what would they say?
- What did Lucy bring her friends to make them see how much fun winter could be?
- One day Lucy skidded while out on an ice patch. Did it scare her?
- Lucy was very creative. What did she use to make skates?
- While she was working quietly in her room, what was she making for her friends?
- When Lucy finally got her friends to join her outside, what did they all do?
Candy Cane Felt Mouse

Materials: 9” x 12” felt pieces
black marker or pen for adding a nose, eyes and whiskers
candy canes
gooey eyes and glue, if desired

1. Begin by tracing the pattern pieces below onto the felt and cutting them out. You can use contrasting colors for the ears and body.
2. Cut slits in the body where indicated on pattern piece and insert the ear pieces.
3. Attach the candy cane tail by putting the straight end of the candy in the loop created by the ear and body pieces of the mouse to hold it in place.
4. Using a marker, pen or glue and googly eyes, add eyes, nose and whiskers.