



## Suggestions for Using Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru

### Synopsis of Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru

An adorable alpaca named Pearl has dreamed of going on an adventure to Peru, and is finally getting her chance. Now she needs your help. What does she need to pack for her trip? Readers will delight in asking her questions about what she may need to bring with her. With repetition of phrases and a silly play on the word, 'alpaca,' children will enjoy actively participating and guessing what Alpaca Pearl will pack in her suitcase.

This book, although silly and fun, is a great learning tool as well. In this manual you will find a variety of suggestions on enhancing a child's language from problem solving and vocabulary building to articulation practice.

Enjoy Alpaca Pearl as she packs for Peru!

### General Suggestions for Reading Books to your Child

Reading books to children is one of the biggest predictors of developing strong readers. Exposing children to books builds so many skills including vocabulary, sound awareness, print awareness, problem solving skills, and much more. When reading a book to your child, never hesitate to have conversations about the pictures, encouraging your child to participate with the book in any way you can. This is called dialogic reading.

**Dialogic reading** is basically using a book to develop a conversation about the pictures as opposed to just passive listening. Engage your child, encouraging him/her to participate in a variety of ways including using actions, talking about the pictures, asking questions, and relating the pictures to the world around them.

### Vocabulary building –

**Building vocabulary is so much more than just naming objects or asking “What’s that?” questions.**

Research suggests that children learn new words by exploring words deeply, that is, describing them and comparing them to other objects. Here is a little poem to guide you in how to teach new vocabulary to children.

If your child... **SEES it, then NAME it. DESCRIBE the parts, too.**

**WHERE can we FIND it? WHAT can it DO?**

**HOW is it DIFFERENT and HOW is it the SAME?**

**COMPARE it to your child's world. This is a NAMING GAME.**

Yes, this is the essence of learning vocabulary. With a book, never hesitate to point out details of an object in the book. Compare it to objects that your child has seen before. Name the word many times and say it in different sentences. For example, here are some ways to use the word, alpaca, in a sentence:

*This alpaca lives on a farm. Alpacas like to sleep on the ground. Do you think that alpaca is smiling at you, or does he just have a scrunched up face? I have a sweater made with fuzzy and warm alpaca wool. Let's pretend we are hugging that alpaca.*

As you read these sentences above, you can see how the word, alpaca, is used 5 times. In addition, the alpaca was described with some of his attributes, where he lives, what he does, and how an alpaca is helpful. Here are some additional facts about alpacas that you can use to describe this lovely animal. Teach vocabulary deeply!

### **Alpacas and Llamas – What is the difference and what do they like and dislike?**

Let's learn a bit about alpacas and how they are different from their related animals, llamas.

#### **Alpacas**

Smaller and shorter

Smaller ears

Blunt, scrunched face

Bred for their wool – very fine

More timid, relaxed, gentle, and goofy

Part of the camel family

Come from South America

#### **Llamas**

Larger and taller

Pointed, larger ears

Pointed face

Bred as a pack animal

Protective and alert

Part of the camel family

Come from South America

**Look at photos of alpacas and llamas and guess which ones are alpacas and which ones are llamas.** You may even want to look at photos of camels and see how they are different as well.

#### **What do alpacas eat?**

Alpacas love grass and plants. They also love fruits and vegetables including: apples, carrots, pineapples, celery, cabbage, lettuce, grapes, bananas, watermelon, peaches, broccoli, cherries, peas, raspberries, strawberries, green beans, and peanuts.

**Talk to your child about what your child likes to eat and how they are just like an alpaca.**

Alpacas should not eat some flowers including: daffodils, daisies, iris, and lilies, and also mushrooms. These foods can wreak havoc on their digestive system.

## Categories –

**Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru** contains two pages where children are asked to choose which objects on the page are **clothing** items and which items are **foods**. Children can look at objects and determine which objects belong to these categories. Use the words, clothes and foods, so that they can begin to learn that crucial skill of categorization.

**To expand on the skill of categorization, collect objects and ask children to find the objects that we can wear, which ones we can eat, etc.**

## Visual Absurdities –

**Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru** is a book of absurdities. There are so many things to discuss with children on how the story is silly and improbable. Let's go through each page and discuss visual absurdities that you can discuss with your child. You can talk about just how silly Alpaca Pearl is.

1. **Pages 2-3** – Alpaca Pearl is wearing glasses. Do alpacas wear glasses? No, they don't.
2. **Pages 6-7**– Do alpacas wear clothes? No, alpacas do not wear clothes, but their wool is used for a variety of clothing such as sweaters and scarves.
3. **Pages 8-9** – Do alpacas sleep in tents? No, alpacas do not sleep in tents. In fact, they may not sleep in a barn either. They choose to sleep wherever they feel the most safe. This may be close to a dog who can guard them. When the weather is very cold, they may sleep in the barn. If it is raining, they may find shelter.
4. **Pages 10-11** – Do alpacas carry a picnic basket? No, probably not, but they eat many of the foods in the basket in this book like apples, carrots, pears, and bananas. Do alpacas eat pizza or hotdogs? No, they tend to eat grass and other fresh, raw fruits and vegetables.
5. **Pages 12-13** – Do alpacas go hiking in the mountains? Alpacas are comfortable in the highlands, but they do not tend to be pack animals like llamas. Alpacas are not large enough to carry packs for others and should not be ridden by people. They certainly do not wear shoes. In fact, alpacas have soft cushions on the bottoms of their feet, so they don't churn up the ground like animals who have hooves.
6. **Pages 14-15**– Do alpacas wear hats? No, they do not wear hats, but there are some pretty funny photos on the internet of alpacas with hats on. Alpacas love to sunbathe, so they probably love the sun in their eyes. Their fleece, though, is used to make beautiful wool hats.
7. **Pages 16-17** – Do alpacas wear rain coats and an umbrella? No, alpacas have a fleece coat which protects them from the rain. They do, however, like to find protection

from the rain. They also do not like to eat in the rain. They tend to sit down and rest when it is raining outside.

8. **Pages 18-19** – Do alpacas celebrate their birthdays? No, alpacas do not celebrate their own birthdays, but many children have had birthday parties at alpaca farms. Because alpacas are very gentle, they are fun to pet and feed.
9. **Pages 20-21** – Do alpacas use cameras? No, alpacas are not able to take pictures with cameras. One thing is very certain. Alpacas are so cute and loved that they are often photographed by people who travel to faraway places like Peru.
10. **Pages 22-23** – Do alpacas pack a suitcase? No, alpacas do not use suitcases. They don't even use backpacks, but llamas do. They are pack animals. Alpacas are not.

### **Comparing your trips to Alpaca Pearl's trip –**

**Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru** is a great book to use for questions requiring simple problem solving. Here are some of the questions to ask when discussing this book and comparing what Alpaca Pearl packed in her suitcase versus what a child would pack.

1. If you could go on a trip, where would you go?
2. What are the different ways that you could travel on a trip? How do you think Alpaca Pearl could get to Peru?
3. What kinds of clothes would you pack for a trip?
4. What kinds of food would you pack for a trip?
5. Where would you sleep on a trip?
6. There are many different trips you could go on. What you pack is very different.
  - a. What would you pack on a picnic?
  - b. What would you pack for a trip to the beach?
  - c. What would you pack for a visit to see your grandma and grandpa?
  - d. What would you pack for a trip to a restaurant?
  - e. Can you think of other trips you could go on?

### **Using Alpaca Pearl for Articulation and Sound Blending –**

For children who struggle with the /k/ sound, Alpaca Pearl gives excellent sound practice at the beginning, middle, and ends of words. The word, alpaca, is repeated countless times in this book. Moving from a vowel, to consonants, to vowel, to consonant, to vowel gives children that essential practice of sound blending. If you are working on final /k/ sounds, you can practice the words, pack, cake, and hike, in single words. If you are working on beginning /k/ sounds, practice the words, cake, candles, rain coat, carrots, and camera in this book. Practice saying phrases using "pack a \_\_\_\_." Choose a variety of different objects to "pack."

### **Acting out the story of Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru –**

**Alpaca Pearl Packs for Peru** could be easily turned into a dramatic play. There is a lot of repetition in the story that some younger children would be able to say together as a group.

There could be a narrator or multiple narrators and, of course, a person or persons to play Alpaca Pearl. A picture of Pearl is available for free on our website to use. This book gives you all the ideas for objects to use for the play. That includes a suitcase, different clothes, foods, a tent, a silly hat, a rain coat and umbrella, cake and candles, and a camera.

## **Songs related to a trip or traveling –**

Using poems and music are excellent for enhancing the vocabulary words in the Alpaca Pearl story. Here is one poem that could be used.

**Alpaca Pearl is going to Peru** (Use the pictures from page 23 of the book to show while reciting this poem.)

*Alpaca Pearl is going to Peru. (repeat)*

*What will she pack, and what will she do? (repeat)*

She will pack some clothes. (clothes clothes)

She will pack a tent. (tent tent)

She will pack some food. (food food)

She will pack a backpack. (backpack)

### **Repeat first two lines**

She will pack some boots. (boots boots)

She will pack a hat. (hat hat)

She will pack a rain coat. (rain coat)

She will pack an umbrella. (umbrella)

### **Repeat first two lines**

She will pack a cake. (cake cake)

She will pack candles. (candles)

She will pack a camera (camera)

Yay, Alpaca Pearl! (repeat)

*Alpaca Pearl is going to Peru. (repeat)*

*That's what she will pack, now tell us what she'll do. (repeat)*

She will get dressed. (dressed dressed)

She will go to sleep. (sleep sleep)

She will eat. (eat eat)

She will hike. (hike hike)

### **Repeat first two lines**

She will hike on sunny days. (sunny days)

She will hike on rainy days. (rainy days)

She will blow some candles on her cake. (kids blow)

She will get her camera and pictures she will take. (action of snapping a picture)

*Alpaca Pearl is going to Peru. (repeat)*

*That's what she will pack, and that's what she will do. (repeat)*

### **I am going on a trip** (To the tune of the Military Chant)

I am going on a trip. (I am going on a trip.)

I'll take a car or take a ship. (I'll take a car or take a ship.)

Maybe a bus or maybe a train. (Maybe a bus or maybe a train.)

Maybe a truck or maybe a plane. (Maybe a truck or maybe a plane.)

Let's go! (Let's go!)

### **Other songs related to vehicles and traveling**

There are songs in our song sets that focus on vehicles. Use these songs to further enhance vocabulary related to traveling.

Imitation Exploration Song Set 1 – Express Train, Go in my Car, Booga Choo Choo

Rock and Roll with a Language Goal Song Set 2 – Go

Drills for Sounds Song Set 3 – Jump on the Choo Choo, Wheels, Bus-Boat-Bike



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