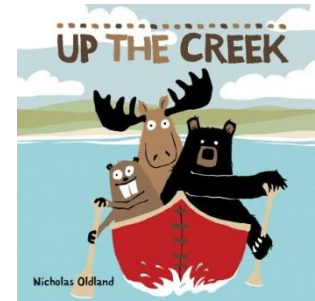




## Up the Creek by Nicholas Oldland

“The bear, the moose and the beaver are the best of friends, even though they often disagree. On a canoe trip, the trio's squabbling leads them into rough waters. Can they agree on a plan before it's too late?” – Goodreads.com



### Art

Find a large cardboard box that the children can use to make a canoe. Ask the children how they might need to work together to create and decorate the canoe.

### Dramatic Play

After you have read the story a few times, have children come up to the front during group time and act out the story as you read it.

As another option, have materials available in the dramatic play area so children can act out parts of the story on their own (e.g. moose antlers, bear costume).

### Games

Create a matching game using the attached template. Children can match the problem to the solution that the animals found in the story. This can be played as a guessing game or a memory match game.

### Gross Motor

Modify the game “Bow, Stern” to reflect the actions in the story. Call out the traditional “bow,” “stern,” “port,” and “starboard,” and add in instructions like, “row the oars,” “portage,” “ride the rapids,” and “take a nap.” Choose suitable actions for each command. (This activity works well with school-aged children)

## **Literacy**

Talk about new words the children may not be familiar with such as “stern,” “port,” “portage.” Let the children know there is another new word that this book is about, even though it doesn’t say what that word is. Talk about how the animals worked together to solve their problems—the answer to a problem is called the “solution.” Ask if the children have heard this word before. Use these, and other new words from the story, at the writing centre in the room. Use the word “solution” as often as you can throughout the day.

## **Music**

Sing songs about teamwork and working together. Some ideas include:

- Everything is Awesome – Tegan & Sara, from The Lego Movie
- That’s Cooperation (Sesame Street: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kihZUsADQTQ>)
- We’re All in This Together – Ben Lee

## **Include Families!**

Send a note home letting families know that you are talking about problem-solving and teamwork in the playroom. Print or email a copy of the solution kit that you use in the playroom home for families to use with their children at home. Document instances of children working together in the playroom as a learning story for families to respond to.



Everyone wanted to steer; the boat tipped over.



© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

Animals played Eeny-Meeny-Miny-Moe; Moose got to steer.



© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

Everyone paddled on the left side; they traveled in circles.



© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

The animals started switching sides when their arms got tired, and then they went straight.



© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

They tried to push and pull the canoe on land,  
but it wouldn't move.



© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

They used portage to get across the land.



Why the  
red if  
only  
ss was  
e.

© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

All the animals started to argue,  
and they ended up in the rapids.



How late!  
had turned into wild white-water rapids.

© 2013 Nicholas Oldland

The animals decided to work together,  
and made it to shore.



© 2013 Nicholas Oldland