

## Supporting Shadow, Light and Silhouette Play

Tracing shadows can be done all year long! *Groundhog's Day* is coming soon. Mark your calendars for February 2nd. This day traditionally falls midway between the winter and spring equinox. As she put her hands in the air, the shadow maker exclaimed, "Look, I got bigger!" "Oh stay that way," said the girl who was tracing. "You look like you have those bug things (antennae) coming out of your head! That's so cool."

### Materials:

- Flashlight
- Black Paper
- Tape
- Chalk
- Developmentally Appropriate Scissors

Tape up the black paper, making sure that each sheet is level with the tops of children's heads. Children stand in profile in front of a flashlight beam, which casts a faint shadow onto the black paper. Use chalk to trace around the shadow, then cut out the silhouette carefully. Or send home blank paper and chalk with instructions for family members to do this at home.

### Look and Listen for Learning

- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Material Properties
- Use of Tools

### Open-Ended Questions

- What's the difference between a shadow and a silhouette?
- Why are shadows dark?
- What's the best time of day to see your longest shadow?
- What is Groundhog's Day all about?