Episode: “Knit Knostalgia”

Albie is excited to find her favorite mittens but when she tries them on they no longer fit! Adjusting to change can be hard, but with the help of a visiting artist, Albie learns how to get creative and turn something old into something new.

**Activity**

**Materials:**
- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Drawing supplies (pencils, crayons, markers, etc.)
- Embellishments like stickers, sequins, scrap paper, etc.

**Steps:**
1. Watch “Knit Knostalgia,” where Albie remakes her mitten into Mitten Man. Why do you think making Mitten Man makes Albie feel better?
2. Help your child trace their hands on a piece of paper. Demonstrate by tracing your own hands first.
3. Cut out your hand shapes and compare the different sizes. Remind your child that just like Albie, they are growing! One day their hands will be bigger too.
4. Arrange the hand cut-outs, both yours and your child’s, so that they resemble animals, like butterflies or birds or even imaginary creatures. Glue them onto another piece of paper.
5. Decorate the hand creatures by drawing or adding stickers, googly eyes, buttons or other embellishments.
6. Explain that like Albie, they created their own hand creatures. They can compare their hands to their hand creatures as they grow bigger and look back on these memories of their smaller selves.
Tips

• Very young children can help with tracing and watch you do the cutting. For children who want to help cutting, try simplifying the hand shape by making a mitten outline instead of tracing individual fingers.
• Follow your child’s lead. If they want to make an imaginary creature, that’s great! If they want to stick to a simple hand turkey that’s fine too.
• This activity can be as detailed or as simple as you want it to be. You can bring out all of your crafting supplies or keep it simple with a few crayons or markers.

In this activity, your child:

• Helped to trace their hand
• Compared their hand to yours by noticing different shapes and sizes
• Created their own hand creature
• Explored change, growth and memory

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

• Albie’s mittens hold memories for her. Is there anything you no longer use but still reminds you of something?
• At the end of the episode, Albie gives one of her mittens to Huggy Pepper. Have you ever shared something you’ve outgrown? How did it feel?
• Chat with your child about their artistic choices. What do they like about their hand creature? Why did they choose to use certain colors or materials?
Keep Going!

**Hand Shadows**
Turn off the lights and grab a flashlight and use your hands to make simple silhouettes and shadow shapes on a wall.

**Paint Handprints**
Instead of tracing, try painting your child’s hands and pressing them onto a piece of paper.

**Keep Tracing**
What other parts of your body can you trace? Try a foot or a whole arm. If you have really big paper, you can even trace your child’s whole body.

**Create a Creature**
Make a stuffed creature of your own out of an old sock or glove, like Albie did.

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**Vocabulary**

- **Creature**: Any living thing, imaginary or real
- **Grow**: When something gets bigger and changes
- **Size**: How big or small something is
- **Trace**: To create an outline around a shape
More At-Home Activities
Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by Albie’s Elevator.

Children’s Books with Related Themes
Check out these children’s books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

*The Mitten* by Jan Brett
A group of animals squeeze into a lost mitten.

*Hands: Growing up to be an Artist* by Lois Elhert
The author describes the tools and materials her artist-parents’ hands used in her childhood.