

Winter Fun Art

There are many fun things to do outdoors when it snows. Children can dress in warm winter clothing and have fun in the snow. Talk with the children about winter activities. These include playing in the snow, making snow angels, riding sleds and toboggans, ice skating, skiing, building snow people, rolling snowballs, sliding on ice, jumping in snowdrifts, and catching snowflakes on mittens or sleeves.

What you need:

- Sheets of drawing paper
- Crayons, washable markers, chalk, paints
- Brushes, sponges, old toothbrushes
- Crumpled paper, toothpaste cartons, small pieces of cardboard, small boxes, aluminum foil, cotton balls, pipe cleaners of various colors, colored paper scraps, yarn, etc.
- Safety scissors
- Washable craft glue

What to do:

- Talk about winter outdoor activities. Have some books or magazines with pictures of snow activities for the children to see. If you live where it never snows, let the children use their imaginations to create an activity they think would be fun to do.
- Give the children a sheet of drawing paper and encourage each one to either draw or create their favorite snow activity. Encourage creativity. Small sleds or toboggans can be made out of toothpaste cartons, small boxes, or cardboard. White paper can be crumpled to look like a pile of snow. Foil can be used to make a skating pond. Give the children lots of materials and let their imaginations go wild!
- To expand this activity, have the children make a classroom mural with each one contributing their winter activity project. Hang a large piece of paper on a wall at a level for the children to work on. In groups of two or three at a time, the children can create their favorite snow activity on the mural. Give the children chances to evaluate their work. When completed this should be a colorful record of the children's favorite outdoor winter activities.

Snowball Poem

I had a great big snowball,
It was so round and white.
I took it home with me,
To keep it overnight.
But when I got up the next
morning,
Ready to go out and play,
I looked for my great big
snowball.
It had melted all away!



Lots of Finger Puppets

Ask parents to send in old, worn gloves instead of throwing them away. Cut the fingers off these gloves and give one to each child to decorate using scraps of paper, material, and markers. Encourage them to make up a story or a little play using their puppets.

If you don't have gloves to use, the children can use their own finger to make temporary finger puppets. They can tape scraps of paper, fabric, yarn, and even things collected outdoors, such as small leaves and twigs, to their finger to make a puppet. This is a great way to encourage the children's imaginations!



Toddler Talk

Toddlers are learning to talk and communicate with others. Give toddlers a toy telephone to talk on. They can pretend to talk with their mommy, daddy, grandma, grandpa, or other family member. Give the children crayons and pieces of paper to scribble on to pretend they are writing letters to their family to tell about their day. Put these in an envelope to be delivered to parents at the end of the day.



Freeze!

This is a good game for children to practice following directions and to build motor skills.

To play, children need to be able to stop and start quickly.

Have the children stand and form a circle, leaving enough space between children so they can move about.

Give directions of various things to do, then say "Freeze!" Here are some examples:

- Take three steps slowly to your right. – Freeze!
- Hop on one foot. – Freeze!
- Raise your arm up high. – Freeze!
- Make a large circle with your arms. – Freeze!
- Bend down low and touch the floor. – Freeze!
- Wiggle your fingers. – Freeze!
- Run in place slowly. – Freeze!
- Make a small circle with your hands. – Freeze!
- Touch your nose. – Freeze!

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