



Snow & Ice Theme

A Snow and Ice theme is a great idea for the cold winter months. Even if you don't live where the weather is cold, kids may be interested to find out what happens in colder climates.

Language & Literacy

Books

Millions of Snowflakes by Mary McKenna Siddals and Elizabeth Sayles

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert.

Snow by Uri Shulevitz

Let it Snow by Holly Hobbie

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs

Building an Igloo by Ulli Steltzer

Stella: Queen of the Snow by Marie-Louise Gay

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and Mary Azarian

Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays:

Five Little Snowflakes

Five Little Snowflakes falling outside my door,
One landed on the window now there are four.
Four little snowflakes the prettiest I've ever seen,
I caught one on my tongue and now there are three.
Three little snowflakes just a lovely few,
One blew away and now there are two.
Two little snowflakes melting in the sun,
One evaporates, which leaves only one.
One lonely snowflake a sparkly little hero,
Joins a snow drift and now there are zero.

Print this finger-play on chart paper; invite a child to point to the lines as you say them with your group.

Activities

Circle Time: Bring in some snow related items to show the kids during circle time. For example, snow globes, photographs of snowflakes from the Internet or nature magazines or books, real snow from outdoors, or paper snowflakes. Ask the children to help you describe snow using all of their senses.

Copy the descriptive words the children use to describe snow on to chart paper and display in the room during the entire unit for use with other activities and journal writing.

Read: Some snow poems to the children. Ask them to act them out with you. Ask the children: "What would it feel like to be a snowflake." Tell them: Move your body like you are a snowflake falling to the ground.

Read: *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, ask the children to draw a picture of what they might do on a snowy day and have them dictate a story to you about their picture.

Math & Number Concepts

Snowflake Count: Hang paper snowflakes around the room and challenge the children to see how many they can find and count. If you are working to count to ten hang ten around the room, etc.

Snowflake Sticker Count: Print copies of the **Snowflake Counting Page** from the **Theme Enhancement Page**. Provide children with stickers (or small snowflake die cuts) to place on the counting page according to the number in each box.

Snowflake Match: Create a snowflake matching game using snowflake stickers, clip art, or stamps. Program or print the cards for as high you want the game to go. Cut and laminate the number cards and snowflake cards separately. Invite the children use the cards for a memory game or just let them take turns picking a number card and finding the correct snowflake card. *Make the cards even more attractive by backing them with colorful snowflake scrapbook paper.

Art

Glitter Snowflakes:

Supplies: Dark colored construction paper, glue in glue bottles, and silver or white glitter.

Directions: Ask the children to create a snowflake on the construction paper using the glue. Have pictures of snowflakes for them to look at. Remind them that snowflakes have six points and challenge them to create a six-pointed snowflake. After they finish let them sprinkle glitter all over their snowflake and dump the excess off into another container to be used again.

White Splatter Painting:

Supplies: White paint, old tooth brushes.

Directions: Have the children draw or even cut a picture from a magazine of something them like to do in the snow. Have them glue the pictures to a piece of dark construction paper- blue or black work well. Then have them splatter paint it

with white paint so it looks like it is in a snow storm. *Hint- mix a little water into the paint if it does not splatter well and is too thick.

To splatter paint the children must run their thumb or a finger along the bristles of the toothbrush aiming it at the picture in the box. ***Be careful this is messy!
Have the children wear paint-shirts!!!!

Snowflake Sponge Prints:

Supplies: A variety of sponge snowflakes, a variety of light color paints like white, light blue, blue, and maybe silver, a very fine glitter and blue or black construction paper.

Directions: Set out the paints and sponges for the children to create their own snowfall picture. Encourage them to overlap their snowflakes and to sprinkle glitter on them if they want to add some shimmer!

Colorful Snowflake Coffee Filters:

Supplies: White coffee filters, pipettes, and water that has been colored with food coloring or liquid watercolors, a plastic or metal tray to catch excess water, scissors.

Directions: Have the children use the pipettes to squirt different colors onto the coffee filters. Once they are dry show them how they can fold it and cut it into a snowflake shape for colorful snowflakes!

Paper Snowflakes: Have the kids cut paper snowflakes to decorate the room with. (a great sensory table activity too.)

Dramatic Play

Dress For Snow: Provide the children with coats, boots, snow pants, and mittens to practice dressing for winter weather. Put a sled in the Library area for children to sit in when they look at books.

Music & Movement

Snowflake Dancing: Have the children move like snowflakes to some classical music, like the Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky. Give them long blue or white streamers to swirl around with them as they dance.

Science & Sensory

Snow Observations: Provide snowflake books with photographs of real snowflakes in the science center so the children can get a close up look at real snowflakes. If possible go outside and catch real snowflakes on a piece of black paper or felt and examine them with magnifying glasses.

Cut a Snowflake: Fill the sensory table with coffee filters and scissors. Let the kids cut as many snowflakes as they want.

Discover Snow: Fill the discovery table with real snow and provide mittens for the kids to use when they play in the snow. Talk about the attributes of the snow. Cold, white, fluffy, wet, etc. If you don't have real snow where you live you can get "Instant Snow in a Jar" check it out, it is pretty cool!

Make a list of all the words on chart paper or in discovery journals of the different attributes the children can name about snow.

Blocks & Building

Build an Igloo: Cover your bigger cardboard blocks with white freezer paper. Invite the children to build a snow fort or igloo with them in the block area. Add interest by including "Polar" animals to the block and building area.

*You can actually build a class igloo using empty milk jugs! The trick is you must keep the lids on the milk jugs for support.

Technology

Cooking & Snacks

Pretzel Snowflakes: Give kids a handful of stick pretzels and let them arrange them on a paper plate to create their won one of a kind snowflake.

Snow Covered Grahams: Give each child a graham cracker square and let him/her cover it with a spread of your choice like PNB* or cream cheese. Then have them sprinkle a little shaved cocoa nut* on the top.

*Be allergy alert

Bulletin Boards

"There is Snow-Body Like You!"- Take a picture of each child and place it in the center of a paper snowflake that the child made or helped to make. Hang them all on the bulletin board with blue or black background and a snowflake trim with the title **"There is Snow-Body Like You!"**

Write your own ideas here...