

Winter Study for Preschool

Created by April Zajko, M.Ed. * aprilzajko@yahoo.com

www.aprilsteachingtree.com

Table of Contents

Lesson Plans:

Introducing our Snow & Winter Theme	2
Snowflakes & Snowflake Bentley	3
Snowballs & Snowmen	4
Ice & Icicles	5
Snow Shelters	6
Outdoor Gross Motor Games	7
Outdoor Activities for Winter	8-10
Snowman Building	11
Snow Engineering	12
Dramatic Play Outdoors	13
Snow Art Outdoors	14
Color the Snow	15
Animal Tracks	16
Indoor Gross Motor Games	17
Art Ideas	18
Additional Art Ideas	19-20
Fine Motor Skills	21
Play Dough Center	22
Water Table	23
Sensory Bin	24
Writing Center	25
Discovery Area /Science Center	26
Bulletin Board Ideas	27
Family Connections	28
Thematic Healthy Snacks	29-30
Online Resources	31
Children's Booklist	32-36
Teacher's Booklist	37



Introducing our Snow & Winter Theme - Week 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Opening Circle Music / Poem Read aloud	Ask the children, "What do you know about winter?" Introduce the action poem, Winter Time . Read aloud, Winter is Here by K. Weinberger.	Read aloud - It's Winter by Linda Glaser Point out the beautiful cut-paper art work! Bring attention to winter activities included in the book - catching snowflakes, snow angels, sledding, building snowmen, drinking hot cocoa.	Recite the poem, <i>Winter Time</i> . Read aloud, One Snowy Day by Jeffrey Scherer "What are your favorite winter activities?"	Introduce the action poem, <i>Winter Time</i> . Read aloud, Here Comes the Snow by A. S. Medearis. "Keeping ourselves warm while outside is important. Why?"
Outdoor Discovery	Snow Shoveling - fill the sensory bin with snow to take inside Snow Observations using the 5 senses		Cold Hands Experiment -which gloves keep your hands warmer (knit vs. thermal/waterproof)? Have kids test diff pairs of gloves.	
Gross Motor	Winter Construction Site (this is ongoing through the month)		Introduce how to play - Freeze Tag	
Art	Shaving Cream Prints spread shaving cream on trays and provide liquid water colors to drip on top. Kids swirl the paint then press a piece of paper on top to make a print. {Paper can be cut into shapes such as snowman, snowflakes, or icicles.}		Mitten Paint Blotto: Day one - fold cardstock in half and drip paint onto one side and fold. Let dry. Day two - child puts hand onto outside of card, draw mitten shape, and then cut out. Reveal identical pairs. Mix up mittens & match pairs!	
Play dough	Cloud Dough - Mix 8 c. flour to 1 c. oil, (put into the under bed storage bin) Add scoops, spoons, small silicone baking molds,			
Water Table	Real Snow Exploration - fill the water tub with snow. Add a variety of small sand shovels, spoons, cups, strainers, etc.		Frozen Hands - freeze water in latex gloves the night before. Peel off half of the gloves, leave the others knotted. Observe melting. *Continue same " Cold Hands Experiment " indoors!	
Sensory Bin	Pretend Snow Bin - two bags of fake paper snow (available at the Dollar Store), white & blue pom poms to be snowballs, some pulled apart cotton balls. Add a variety of scoops, tongs, tweezers, and mini sand shovels. Show how to use tweezers to move cotton balls into ice cube trays. Day 3 & 4 -- add items to make the bin into a " Pretend Snow Globe Bin " -same bin contents from Day 1 & 2 but add small plastic jars with mini figurines hot glued to the lid. Add appropriate sized spoons so kids can scoop 'snow' into the 'snow globe' and some loose figurines for the kids to play with.			
Easel	Encourage snowy paintings -- 4 paint cups: 1.white 2. Glitter white 3.Blue 4. light blue			
Writing Center	Snowflake envelopes, Glitter Snowflake Stickers, glitter crayons, white crayons, blue or black construction paper.			
Science Center	Convert train table area into -- " Winter Forest Scape " - add to this throughout the month as the children suggest new ideas! Beaded Snowflakes -need pipe cleaners, beads in white, clear, blue. Add a hanger using either dental floss or fishing line. Explain to the kids that the snowflake needs 6 arms, but each snowflake is unique. This is will likely continue throughout the theme since beading is a favorite activity!			
Toys or New Centers for this theme:	Snowy Cutting/ Tearing Bin --- in an under the bed storage bin add paper in a variety of winter colors, laminate scraps, shredded white & blue gift bag filler, silver "icicle" decorations, blue shredded copy paper, metallic bows, blue & white tissue paper and decorative & regular kid scissors. (Save contents for collages.) Blocks Center - add white cotton batting and arctic animals to make a winter scene (I ordered the Artic Toob Set for \$10-- includes: igloo, polar bear, arctic rabbit, arctic fox, huskies, caribou, harp seal, beluga whale, walrus, Eskimo and musher.			
Teacher Time	In small groups, complete a Snow Observation sheet - five senses		Name writing with pretend snow and white glue - on cardstock	
Closing Circle	"What is something you noticed with Pretend Snow vs. the Real Snow?"	Orally retell the story " The Snowman " by Raymond Briggs	Sing with book ~ Winter Wonderland by Dick Smith Play - What is covered in a blanket of snow?	

Snowflakes & Snowflake Bentley Theme - Week 2

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Opening Circle Music / Poem Read aloud	Introduce the song, <i>I'm a Little Snowflake</i> . Orally tell the story of Snowflake Bentley . Ask the children, "Have you ever looked really closely at a snowflake?"	Sing, <i>I'm a Little Snowflake</i> . Review some facts about Snowflakes: Snow begins with a speck (dirt, ash, salt). The speck becomes the center of a snow crystal. As it falls, the snow crystal forms. Reference- The Story of Snow.	Review some facts about Snowflakes: Snow crystal shapes can be like a star, plates, columns 6 is a snow crystals magic number! Each is unique & rarely are perfect! Sing, <i>I'm a Little Snowflake & Winter Wonderland</i> . Read aloud, Let It Snow by Maryann Cocca-Leffler.	Sing, <i>I'm a Little Snowflake</i> . Review some facts about Snowflakes: What is the magic number for snow crystals? SIX! *Many snow crystals make up one snowflake! When a snow crystal lands it starts to wither away- that's why Bentley wanted to photograph them!
Outdoor Discovery	Catching Snowflakes – While outside give each child their own Snowflake Catcher Necklace! (Or use a piece of black paper.) Make sure the necklace is cold by keeping it in the freezer beforehand. Explain that today we will be learning about snowflakes. Show children how to catch flakes while it's in flight. After children have successfully caught snowflakes, give them a magnifying glass to look at the flake closer.		Homemade Snow Gauge - cut 2 liter bottle to make, mark with inches. Monitor over the next couple of weeks!	
Gross Motor			*If snow is falling, Microscope Exploration with snowflakes * If snow is not falling, introduce Snow Flake Dancing with Scarves	
Art	Snowflake Print Making - put white glittery paint into a shallow pie pan. Lay out a variety of materials for print making: bottom of berry basket, bottom of a spool of thread, snowflake shaped cookie cutters, toilet paper rolls with slits cut out with decorative scissors. (Dark blue paper).		Snowflake Handprints – use blue construction paper. Dip hands into white paint. Paint three lines to form a star, then paint 6 handprints at the end of the spokes. This should form a circle, be sure not to overlap the hands & try to have the fingers in the same position for each print.	
Play dough	Snow Dough/ Bright White Playdough - encourage snowman by adding: buttons, small pieces of shiny pipe cleaners, beans, and beads			
Water Table	Pretend Snowflakes - fill the water table with water and add a variety of plastic snowflakes. Add fishing nets and strainers for the kids to scoop up the snowflakes.		Same contents as Day 1 & 2 but tint water with blue liquid watercolor.	
Sensory Bin	Pretend snow bin - Since we are learning about Snowflake Bentley this week, add magnifying glasses to examine the snow bin more closely!			
Easel	Oversize cut out of snowflakes - add salt to 2 paint cups and glitter to the other 2 cups (white, lavender, blue, and light blue)			
Writing Center	Cutting Snowflakes - using pre-folded coffee filters		Snowflake Coloring Sheet & glitter crayons	
Science Center	Display photographs by Snowflake Bentley and books related to snowflakes. Snowflake Matching Game - show how to play		Talk about Snowflake Facts . Look at a copy of the Snowflake Guide http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/class/class.htm	
Dramatic Play	Snowman Dress Up Center - top hats, scarves, sticky buttons from adhesive foam, carrot noses, winter gloves or mittens, etc.			
Teacher Time	Scissor Skills - demo how to cut a snowflake. "Don't get upset if your snowflake breaks, many snowflakes are not perfect when they fall to the ground."		Snowflake Pattern blocks, Snowflake Matching Game	
Closing Circle	Talk about why we needed dark felt or black paper to view the flakes outside. Why not white? Why did the paper have to be frozen?	Read first part of Snowflake Bentley , by J. B. Martin	Continue reading Snowflake Bentley , by J. B. Martin "Snowflake Bentley loved looking at snowflakes. What is something that you love to do?"	Finish reading Snowflake Bentley , by J. B. Martin

Snowballs & Snowmen Theme - Week 3

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Opening Circle Music / Poem Read aloud	Read aloud - Snowballs by Lois Ehlert - show the page of things to find on the snowmen Review shapes (find examples) Introduce the poem, <i>Chubby Little Snowman</i> .	Ask the children, "How do you make a snowball? What is the difference between a ball/ sphere and a circle?" (Discuss 2D/3D) Read aloud, Amy Loves the Snow by J. Hoban. Discuss sequence of building a snowman.	Ask the children, "Have you ever made a snowman at home? What do we need to make a snowman?" Read aloud - All You Need for a Snowman by B. Lavallee	Read aloud - No Snow for Seth What if we put snow in a big jar like Seth? Could we keep it from melting? When the snow melts what does it turn into?
Outdoor Discovery	How to pack a snowball, then roll to make a BIG snowball!	Snowman Building! - Bring in a variety of snowman supplies (scarves, carrots, sticks, buttons), so the kids can be creative in their snowman decorating. Have natural materials that animals can eat – bird seed, pretzels, acorns, pinecones. {If not good snowman building snow - snow painting with spray bottles or brushes!}	Headless Snowman - build snowman with 2 balls, put stool behind so kids can step up and they look like the snowman. Take pictures!	Lets fill 2 big jars of snow & put one in the classroom and one in the freezer. What will happen?
Gross Motor	Snowball Tossing Game before school starts create a bunch of snowballs using the plastic snowball maker, also have a variety of different sized balls. Talk about the qualities of a sphere. Make a simple toss game, targets?		Act out the poem, <i>Chubby Little Snowman</i> (bunny ears headband, snowman -- carrot nose, buttons using self stick foam circles)	Freeze Tag Act out, <i>Cubby Little Snowman</i>
Art	Snowman Collages - using card stock pre-cut into the shape of a snowman and lots of open ended accessories for the kids to choose: googly eyes, mini sticks, scarves, hats, whole punches as buttons, mini pom poms, real buttons, popsicle sticks, straw pieces, paper beads, feathers, sequins,		Yarn Snowballs - give each child a small balloon inflated with air. The children dip pieces of white yarn into watered down Elmer's Glue. Wrap yarn all around the balloon, sprinkle with glitter, and dry overnight. Then pop the balloon.	
Play dough	Kool-Aid Playdough - One batch blue and one batch clear. Add small versions of snowman accessories such as orange pipe cleaner noses, real buttons, mini scarves cut from felt, a few small sticks gathered from outside. Also add snowflake & snowman cookie cutters.			
Water Table	Snow Ball Exploration - using a snowball maker make a bunch of snowballs before preschool begins. Leave the batches outdoors overnight to really solidify. Hide a little toy inside some of the snow balls.		Mini Snowmen Meet the Hair Dryer - help the kids to make mini snowmen in the water table. Then transfer them to individual plastic tubs. After talking about how snow melts, bring out a hair dryer. "Ask what do you think will happen?"	
Sensory Bin	Snowballs Bin - ping pong balls, golf balls, and practice golf balls. Paper towel and gift wrap tubes cut in half to make ramps. We are learning today about spheres so let's examine how spheres roll!		Snowman Assembly Bin - prior to class, add features to the ping pong balls (some snowman faces, some buttons, some shoes). Encourage the kids to find 3 ping pong balls and make their own snowman! Paper towel roll cut to hold them.	
Easel	Pre-cut oversized snowmen shapes for kids to paint.		Black paper with salt paint. Add different size corks for stamping.	
Writing Center	Snowballs - some pre-cut white circles (snowballs) of various sizes and some paper folded in half with half circle drawn on so kids to cut out independently. Show kids how to stack the different sized circles to make a snowman. (Day 3 & 4 - add left over accessories from the Snowman Collage project to the Writing Center.			
Science Center	Snowballs book by L. Ehlert - children go back through the book to find the objects on snowmen.		Oral Language/ Comprehension - in pairs ask kids why snow melts. Observes changes with hair dryer, hot water. Discuss. Snowman Shaped lacing cards	
Teacher Time	Shape Assessment; Snowflake Counting Cards			
Closing Circle	Read aloud, <i>The Biggest, Best Snowman</i> by M. Cuyler "	Sing aloud Frosty the Snowman (reference book if needed)	Read aloud, Snowmen at Night .	Observe the two jars of snow - what happened & why?

Ice & Icicles Theme - Week 4

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Opening Circle Music / Poem Read aloud	Introduce the poem, <i>Icicle</i> . Have several large icicles and two large ice blocks at the circle. "Ice cubes and icicles are both made from water that is frozen." Talk about the 3 states of water (solid, liquid, gas) and demonstrate: Icicles & ice are solids. Water is a liquid. Dragon's Breath is a gas.		Recite the poem, <i>Icicle</i> . <i>Ask, "What is the difference between snow and ice?"</i>	"If we fill two identical containers, one with ice and one with snow and bring them inside, will they both melt? Will one have more water?" Have kids heap the container with snow so they know it's full.
Outdoor Discovery	Go on an icicle hunt . Discuss where they form and why. What happens on a warm day? Why is it dangerous to play below icicles? What's the difference between icicles & snow?		Go on an Ice Hunt - look for patches of ice in the outdoor playspace.	
Gross Motor	Play " Freezing Icicles " same rules as Freeze Tag but the frozen kids have to stand with arms above their heads.	Hide & Seek Colored Ice Cubes! (leave outside when done today)	Hide & Seek Colored Ice Cubes! (after playing have the kids gather all the cubes so we can bring them inside to watch melt in sensory bin)	Obstacle Course
Art	Painting with Ice Cubes – freeze several trays of ice cubes & food coloring or paint with a popsicle stick in it. Show the children how to hold the stick and 'paint' with the melting ice cube. Paint onto thin white construction paper or coffee filters.		Glitter Icicles - Have kids create thick lines of glue on wax paper (or laminate scraps). Let glue run. Sprinkle with glitter and let dry.	
Play dough	Add the Artic Toob miniatures to the playdough table this week. Also add plastic icicles and pretend ice cubes.			
Water Table	Ice cube trays, basters, jars of colored water. Open ended play, then just before clean up time - ask kids to fill all the ice cube trays and take outside to freeze for a game the following morning.		Snow vs. Ice - put both in bin to observe and play (Make winter gloves available!)	
Sensory Bin	Icicle Exploration (provide gloves, mag. Glass, cups) Add pretend icicles to compare - how are they the same / different?		Colored Ice Cubes, Frozen Hands (which are made by putting water into latex gloves overnight)	
Easel	Cut house from black construction paper. Kids paint on salt/white paint to make icicles on a house.		Cover easel with clear laminate. Kids paint with ice cubes and watch it melt down easel. (Lay cloth in easel tray, ice cubes in bin)	
Writing Center	Add icicles cut from white card stock, also add icicles cut from scraps of laminate. Glitter crayons and white crayons.			
Science Center {Display photographs of real icicles.}	Melting Ice – - All the children sit at tables. Give each child a bowl of warm water and a bowl of very cold water. Let kids feel both bowls of water. Ask them to tell you what they think will happen if they put an ice cube in each bowl. Make some predictions about which cube will melt faster and why. Have the students put one ice cube in each bowl. Watch closely as the ice cubes melt and discuss.		Ice Block Designs – Put several ice blocks in an under the bed storage bin. Children sprinkle coarse salt on top of the ice blocks. (Explain that salt make ice melt faster.) Children drip various colors of liquid water colors (food coloring could work, but it stains). Watch as tunnels of color are created as the salt melts through the ice block Leave the colorful ice blocks out to observe throughout the day.	
Teacher Time	Play "Don't Break the Ice" - great strategy game. Kids learn to take turns and count ice cubes		Oral Language/ Comprehension check-- 1:1 talk to kids about their snow and ice observations. Journal writing - dictated sentences.	
Closing Circle	What will happen to the ice cube trays overnight? Read aloud, Poppleton in Winter - 1 st chapter	Read aloud, The Icicle by Valery Voskoboinikov	Observe the ice blocks again. Talk about the changes with the colored ice cubes. Why? Discuss melting process/ snow v. ice "Snow has a lot of air, so there was much less water from the melting snow. {Note- preschoolers likely won't believe you! So do this experiment multiple days}	

Snow Shelters Theme - Week 5

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Opening Circle Music / Poem Read aloud	Review - Winter Time, <i>I'm a Little Snowflake</i> , <i>Chubby Little Snowman</i> , & <i>Icicle</i> "Why would someone build a snow shelter?"	Reference book, How to Build an Igloo and Other Snow Shelters by N. Yankielun. "Would you want to sleep in a snow shelter overnight?"	Reference book, How to Build an Igloo and Other Snow Shelters by N. Yankielun. "What is insulation? Is it warmer inside or outside of the quinzee?"	How does it feel being INSIDE of snow? Why would people build a snow shelter? Distinguish between play & survival.
Outdoor Discovery PLAN B: Create a lean to out of sticks and evergreen branches!	Snow Quinzee Project! Mounding snow is the first step of making a snow shelter. Research before building!!!	Pack and finish mounding snow. Begin to dig out.	(Dig out the night before) Kids find a real Snow Quinzee. At the end of the day, cover and disguise door.	Play inside quinzee, drink hot cocoa? Take off roof so no risk of collapsing on someone when not in session. (Continue to use as snow fort/snow wall)
Gross Motor	Hula Hoop Igloo Game - following directions game. Pretend hula hoop is an igloo. Stand next to, jump over, go inside, 2 friends, etc.		Ice Fishing Game - bamboo fishing rods, foam fish. (Take game indoors if too cold to play outside.)	
Art	Igloo Sculptures - turn paper bowl upside down. Cut out door and insert toilet paper roll, glue in place. Decorate igloo with either collage materials in snow colors, or cover in puffy snow. Create puffy snow by mixing 1 part shaving cream and 1 part Elmer's glue - creates 3D effect.		Igloo Prints - dip balloon into white paint. Then press onto bottom of paper so just a half circle is on the paper. (Kids may like to do a snowman version, pressing different ways to make sm, med, large circles. {Open Ended - many papers will look like a blizzard instead!} Other ideas - use different sized corks cut in half or potatoes cut into the shape of an igloo.	
Play dough	Group Playdough Igloo Sculptures but use white snow dough to cover the bowl. {"Explain Group project, can't take home."}			
Water Table	Insulation Experiments - see notes for details		Whipped Snow - grate Ivory soap bars into a bowl with a potato peeler, mix in 2 cups of boiling water. Add a quarter cup of liquid laundry starch and whip with an electric mixer. Make it ahead, then add more water if needed for kids to play.	
Sensory Bin	Ice Block Igloos - freeze 3 different sized bowls with water, turn upside down. Add the Artic Toob miniatures to this center.		Colored Ice Blocks & Igloos - add either liquid water colors or diluted tempera paint.	
Easel	Igloo Pictures - using yarn covered wooden blocks to make prints of the individual snow blocks.		Hang white paper, tape on a template of an igloo. Kids use blue, gray, and sparkly paints to paint the sky. Remove template and you have a negative image (ie. White space is the igloo, painting is sky)	
Writing Center	Small cut outs of igloos, blue paper, glitter glue.			
Science Center	Move wooden blocks to the science center to encourage stacking to build igloos. Post pictures of real igloos & snow shelters.			
Game	Ice Block Hop - cut out poster board into large squares. Write on a letters (or number, name, or word). Kids call out the letter and jump onto block.		Snow Tunnel – bring out six stools (that are arched so they are hollow). Move them next to each other to create a snow tunnel for crawling.	
Teacher Time	Lead insulation experiments & discuss results in pairs		Journal Writing - dictated sentences about snow shelters.	
Closing Circle	Read aloud, Snow by R. McKie {reference p. 39 - snow house, p. 61 snow in freezer like Seth!}	Using the white board, draw a diagram of the snow quinzee and discuss sequence of building	Discussion about the Snow Quinzee Was it warmer inside? Why?	Wrapping up our Snow & Winter theme!

Outdoor Gross Motor Games

Freeze Tag - this is a great game to teach young children. When playing with 3 or 4 year olds they may not stay 'frozen' but it's fun to learn either way. Explain that everyone should spread out and one person is the 'tagger'. The Tagger tries to tag other kids. When you are tagged, you must "freeze like a statue". Other players can come "melt" or unfreeze tagged players by touching them. Play for a set amount of time and then change the 'tagger'. Icicle Freeze Tag - same directions but when tagged the child must "freeze like a icicle" with their arms together overhead.

Snowball Toss Game - before school starts create a bunch of snowballs using the plastic snowball maker, also have a variety of different sized balls. Talk about the qualities of a sphere. Make a simple toss game. Targets - paint targets into the snow, form with rope, lay out buckets & hula hoops. NOTE: Discuss school rules before playing. Snow ball fights are not allowed at school!

Snowball Target Practice - since snowball fights would not be advisable, set up a fun target practice instead. 1. Recycled pie tins & cardboard targets would be fun. Figure out how to hang them from a tree or fence. 2. A second way would be to paint a bull's eye onto the ground with circles surrounding it, and with older children you could have flags with different point values. 3. A third fun target practice would be to make six colored frozen ice blocks from plastic cups, stack them in a pyramid shape, and then take turns trying to knock them down by throwing snowballs at them. 4. Pack a snow bull's eye on the side of brick wall or fence. Take turns practicing your marksmanship! Any of these three games would be great hand/eye coordination for kids!

Snowman Bowling – partially fill milk jugs or 2 liter bottles with sand so they will stand up. Paint snowmen on the bottles (or create a snowman picture on cardstock and attach to the jug). Arrange the jugs as pins in bowling and let children take turns bowling with ball. **Ice Bowling** - create ice balls by filling balloons with water and food coloring. Use the ice balls to knock down homemade or store bought bowling pins.

Tic-Tac-Toe: create a large grid by drawing lines into the snow, use sticks for the X's and pinecones for the O's. Many traditional games that kids play in the summer are just as fun in winter. Why not try out winter versions of: **Hopscotch, Croquet, Horseshoes, Kickball, Capture the Flag, T-ball**

Winter Olympics- When you feel that you've tap out all your creative ideas, why not make up a fun Winter Olympics Course that focuses on elements in your play space & projects you've already played outside. Weave around the snowmen, dig to find 5 colored ice cubes, pretend to be the Cubby Little Snowman, toss 5 snowballs at the targets, dance like a snowflake by spinning in 10 circles, drive a truck around the winter construction site, etc. This is fun way to do all of your outdoor activities that your children have been playing over the last couple of weeks, while keeping it fresh and exciting!

Outdoor Activities for Winter

Winter Picnic - pull out the waterproof blanket and have a picnic in the snowy outdoors. Pack a basket with bread, warm soup, gooey macaroni & cheese, and hot cocoa. Non-breakable Thermos containers with a coupon for a “Winter Picnic” make a fun gift for winter holidays!

Catching Snowflakes - hand out the snowflake catcher necklaces for kids to wear. Try to catch flakes in the air and observe. Have magnifying glasses and snow crystal chart available.

Snowflake Dancing - using tulle & curling ribbon create dancing scarves. Simply attach to a rubber band by looping the tulle & ribbon. The rubber band makes it easy to slip them over the kids mittens. NOTE: these look very princess, if you have some boys who might object, try cutting some white sheets into strips or use rainbow color scarves.

Mr. Potato Head - use snow to create the head, then insert the piece to design your own Mr. Snow Head!

Snow angels – is a classic snowy day activity. Add a new element by sprinkling the impression with bird seed and creating a design with pinecones, branches, and other natural elements. Make a colorful version by painting the impression with spray bottles filled with diluted liquid watercolors. Make a whole family of snow angels by having different sized children and adults lay near each other and then decorate their faces and add details. Teddy bear or other stuffed animals can also be used to make snow angels and take a photograph to make it a lasting memory. Sneak in some math skills by measuring the length of the angel from head to toe, then the wing span. To measure count how many footprints long using the adult’s foot. Then measure using the child’s foot. Why are the numbers different?

Snow Silhouettes - try lying down to make different geometric shapes, numbers, or letters. What about animals? How can we make our body imprint on the snow look like an octopus?

“Breathe like a dragon” – on a cold chilly day, explain that dragons normally breathe fire but the cold weather makes dragons only able to produce steam.

Action Songs – “Head Shoulders Knees and Toes”, “Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Turn Around” For young children being bundled up limits their dexterity. Songs such as these make them active without being frustrated at what they can’t do.

“Snowman Says” – just like Simon Says except the actions are winter themed – Snowman says downhill ski, make a snow angel, shovel snow, catch snowflakes on your tongue, etc.

Pin the Button on the Snowman- ahead of time create buttons by hot gluing milk lids onto long dowels or sticks. To play the game kids stand in front of a snowman with their eyes covered, they hold one button and try to push it into the snowman where buttons should go.

Frosty’s Hat Toss – build shorter snowmen and then make a game out of tossing a top hat onto the snowman’s head. (Save the plastic ones from New Year’s Eve parties!) Make a line in the snow to show the children where to stand. Be sure to teach your child the words to “Frosty the Snowman” ‘There must have been some magic in that old silk hat...”

Outdoor Mazes- I put on my snowshoes, and packed down a winding path with a couple of dead ends. At the end of the path I buried a large plastic tote with buried treasure. We changed the treasures often – sometime toys, colored ice cubes, large chunks of snow, or a stuffed animal. Another option would be to hide treasure (ice cubes or pinecones) along the way and the kids could have a bucket to gather the items.

Obstacle Course – when you have LOTS of snow use it to build the ultimate obstacle course. Mound up hills to be climbed, smaller compacted masses to jump over, several piles of snow just a few feet apart that the kids have to weave back and forth through, spray water with blue food coloring for a river to cross, have a feat of super strength such as pushing a giant snowball across the yard, create a small snow tunnel, and some grand finale like jumping into a large snow pile or sledding down a hill. Remember that there is a lot of fun in making the course and the kids should be a part of the creative planning and building!

Hiding in the Snow - talk to the children about snowshoe hares and how they change their color to blend in with their environment. In the summer, the snowshoe hare is brown and in the winter it is white. Play a game of Hide and Seek to reinforce this idea of camouflage. Hide five objects that are brown and five that are white. Which items were easier to find in the snow? Why? What if we played this game in the summer?

Hide & Seek Colored Ice Cubes - Make up lots of batches of colored ice cubes for the kids to find. Preschoolers will often call them jewels or diamonds, and will love hunting them over and over again. The children can both hide them & seek them. To begin, it’s best to “hide” the ice cubes in plain sight so everyone can find them! If temperatures are cold enough, leave them outside when done playing. If you get a snow dusting overnight, it is fun to have to dig a bit to find them! Colored ice cubes that are not found, might melt and reveal themselves another day. Variations: 1. Assign each child a color to find, everyone is told to find 12 ice cubes and is given an egg carton to hold the cubes as they find them. 2. Hide the cubes in tricky places and play hot/cold to find them.

Winter Scavenger Hunt – this is a fun activity to use year-round. Make sure you take a walk around ahead of time so that the items you list can actually be found on the hunt. Items to include – snow drift, dripping icicle, pinecone, twig, animal track, flying bird, deer droppings, frozen puddle, ice, etc. Check the items off as you find them. Be sure to use it as an opportunity to ask questions too!

Winter Treasure Hunt – half bury treasure in the snow. This could be done again and again by changing up the items you hide. Plastic coins, ice blocks, colored ice cubes, silicone shaped ice cubes, ice frozen into sand molds, painted pine cones, small trinkets, etc. Count the number of items before and after hiding them to ensure you found all the treasure!

Nature Walks - find a natural area close to your facility and walk there often. There is so much to learn just by walking and observing. One great way to document your walks to take photographs that you print and display in your indoor classroom. Compare photos from a fall walk, winter, and spring. This helps children see the changes that happen slowly over time.

Magnetic Snowman – one of my walls at preschool was metal so I could do this activity outdoors. (For other this works best if you have a magnet white board, white refrigerator, or white metal filing cabinet in your classroom.) Precut snowman features from foam and add magnets. Encourage kids to build snowman using the pieces!

Snowman Building

Wonderful teachable moments while building snowmen~ patience, persistence, sequencing events, ordering by size, and team work!

Snowman Building - gather a variety of snowman supplies (scarves, carrots, sticks, buttons), so the kids can be creative in their snowman decorating. Have natural materials that animals can eat – bird seed, pretzels, acorns, pinecones. Talk about the sequencing of building a snowman.

Snowman Sack - read Snowballs by Lois Ehlert. Revisit the page that says: “We’d been waiting for a really big snow, saving good stuff in a sack. Finally it was a perfect snowball day.”

What would be “really good stuff” to decorate a snowman? Give each child a brown grocery bag to gather up snowman accessories from the outdoors - small branches, dead weeds, etc. The book features many different nature items as well as man-made items. Get kids thinking and planning ahead for their snowman making! Let’s draw our ideas for our snowmen! **“Perfect Snowball Day”** - in Snowballs by Lois Ehlert she mentions this term. What makes a “perfect snowball day”? Talk about different types of snow and try packing snowballs. Does it work with all types of snow?!

Snowman Variations- do a pinterest search and get inspired! Upside down snowman like he’s doing a headstand. Rosy cheeked snowman. Snow caterpillar using a snowball maker for perfect spheres -- could color like the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Snowman bird feeder - create a bowl shape at the top and fill with seeds. Snow animals. Snoopy shaped snowman. Snowman family like in Snowballs by Lois Ehlert.

Snow creatures – mound up snow to make animals, children’s book characters, and imaginary creatures. To create a different creatures provide the kids with a variety of natural materials -- twigs, leaves, tall grasses, icicles. Try making: Porcupine – twigs to make the spines, Deer – bring antlers to add to a pile of snow, Squirrel - pretend fur, Tiger - animal print fabric.

Headless Snowman - build snowman without a head, put stool behind so kids can step up and they look like the snowman.

Mini Snowmen- have kids create their very own snowman on a small scale. If they can be picked up, you could move the mini snowman around for a photo shoot around the outdoor play space. These pictures could be printed into a book to teach positional words: under the umbrella, on top of the mailbox, beside the bird feeder, etc. (*Mini snowmen could be brought indoors to observe melting, preserved in the freezer, or meet their demise with a hair dryer*)

Chubby Little Snowman - Act out the poem, *Chubby Little Snowman* (bunny ears headband, snowman -- carrot nose, buttons using self stick foam circles)

Sun Protection - what can we do on a sunny warm day to help our snowmen?

Snow Engineering

Snow Castles - get out the sand toys and let the kids create a snow fortress. Show the kids how to fully fill the sand castle buckets, pack it in, and then carefully dump from the bucket. If you have a “Flexible Flyer Snow Block Maker” or other brick maker, you may want to start with a plain brick wall and then add details with the sand buckets. The plastic that sand toys are typically made out of will crack if left out in the snow, so it’s better to use them and then store in the garage.

Snow City – use the snow fort brick mold to make buildings & houses. To create variety with the buildings use different sized containers such as dishpans, yogurt containers, etc. Create roads that will accommodate your child’s outdoor plastic trucks. Show the kids how to add details to the buildings with windows, doors, sidewalks, paths, etc.

Snowy Bridges - using the snow block maker, attempt to create a bridges around the play space. Then using small toy cars, kids can drive their small toys car around the yard.

Snow Lantern - make a mini igloo shape by stacking snowballs. Before putting on the top, add either a LED tea light that is battery operated or a glow stick. This creates a wonderful effect!

Snow Block Wall - persistence and determination to build their very own snow version of the “Great Wall of China”

Demolition Day- together discuss rules for destroying snow buildings. Would it be kind to destroy someone else’s snow fort or snowman? When the weather begins to warm and any remaining snow walls or structures are beginning to fall, consider having a group “Demolition Day” where everything gets crumbled and taken down.

Snow Playhouse - a simple way to create a simple snow structure is to use a plastic playhouse (such as a Step 2--) as the base. Before the snow flies, relocate the playhouse to somewhere that you won’t mind it getting frozen to the ground. Each snowfall, have the kids help you shovel the snow to cover the structure. Decorate the snow playhouse with snow paints or artificial flowers!

Snow Shelters - without a doubt, one of the most memorable activities that you can do outdoors with children in winter is to build snow shelters. Our favorite type of snow shelter is a quinzee. It’s important to learn how to safely make a shelter since a child could get trapped if it collapsed. Recruit an experience snow shelter builder, attend a workshop on it, or do some research before attempting this project. It’s one of the best projects we do each year and I can’t recommend it enough! We make our snow pile ahead the night before and then carve it out with the children the following day. We decided that we could not safely leave the snow quinzee in our public space because it’s a

trapping hazard....so we sadly destroy it at the end of the day. **An alternative is to create a structure that does not have roof that could collapse!**One great resource is:<http://boyslife.org/outdoors/outdoorarticles/2992/how-to-build-a-quinzee-snow-shelter/>

Montshire Museum has an “Igloo Build” on February 15, 2014. The host of the event is Dr. Bert Yankielun, engineer and author of the book *How to Build an Igloo and Other Snow Structures*. You’ll learn the structural secrets of building with snow, from making an initial snow angel to placing the final block on the dome to sawing yourself out. Then try your own hand at building an igloo! Indoor activities and presentations included throughout the day. Check their website for more information <http://montshire.org/programs/special-events/igloo-build/>

Dramatic Play Outdoors

Hot Chocolate Stand- all the same features as a lemonade stand, but offer up some real or pretend hot cocoa to your customers!

Outdoor Ice Cream Shop - one of the best investments I’ve made for our outdoor play equipment was the “Melissa and Doug Sunny Patch Speck Seahorse Sand Ice Cream Set”. This little \$15 set has provided hours of year round fun for my preschoolers. It comes with two ice cream scoops, two cones, a sprinkle shaker, and bucket with a lid. My preschoolers love to play with it in the sand box before it’s covered with snow. This year, I plan on bringing it back out in winter so they can make cool treats with fresh snow!

Winter Construction Site - gather every plastic truck & tractor you have so there are enough vehicles for each child. Add yellow construction flagging to make the area look like a construction site. Round up a bunch of shovels and sand tools. Prior to the kids arriving, use food coloring in spray bottles to make roads on the snow. As kids arrive, explain that this is a winter construction site! (Hard hats would add to the fun, but they will not stay on with winter hats and hoods. Maybe save the hard hats for warmer days.) {Note - plastic that is left outside will become brittle. Metal components will rust in the snow. The best bet is to take the trucks inside after playing, and make sure to drain the bin you store them in!}

Snow Pirates – shiver me cold timbers! Put on some pirate dress up gear over the kids snow suits and go outdoors for a cool pirate adventure. Create a pretend boat out of mounded snow, add a pirate flag, bury some treasure, and mark an X.

Snow Kitchen - offer a variety of play kitchen accessories such as pots, pans, plates, cups, and utensils. Gather a bunch of natural materials to use as the ‘food’ - sunflower heads, acorns, pinecones, dried herbs, and rocks.

Snow Furniture - create a table and chairs to sit on outdoors. Large storage totes that were filled with snow and left overnight to settle, can be turned out and resembles a table. Chairs can be made from 5 gallon buckets. With a larger group, you could have each child make their own chair or something special for the snow room. For a fun photo op, you could add a beach umbrella to the snow room!

Snow Art Outdoors

Icy Sun Catchers- indoors begin with a pie pan and a variety of natural materials. Pinecones, hemlock cones, acorns, small pine branches, cedar branches, leaves, sticks, cranberries, and small pebbles can be used to create a mandala design or abstract art. Talk about the textures, shapes, colors, and aroma as you create your art. Add a long string or wire across the pan, making sure that it is fully submerged, and that there is enough string outside of the pie pan to tie it onto something later. Allow for it to freeze overnight in the freezer or outdoors. Do not remove from the pan until fully frozen. Once it's ready, remove the pie pan and hang outdoors in a spot that you can see it. These are best to make in the coldest months so they last for weeks before melting. Make a glitzy version by using sequins, glitter and food coloring!

Icy Ornaments- use the same directions as above but instead, use cookie cutters with aluminum foil wrapped on the bottom as the molds. These smaller ornaments are beautiful to adorn a tree outside in the winter months.

Icy Sculptures- using the same types of materials as the sun catchers, create larger 3D sculptures. Use a large yogurt container or ½ gallon orange juice container as the mold. Children fill the container with natural materials and then add water. Predict how long it will take for the water to freeze outdoors, test it, and record. Once frozen take it out of the mold and observe. Let the children to decide if they want to keep it outside or bring it indoors. If they bring it in, predict how long it will take to melt, test it, and record.

Icy Letters - fill an 8x8 or 9x9 inch pan with water, add flexible grapevine or sticks to make one letter. Decorate with additional natural materials if desired. Allow to freeze overnight. Over the course of a few days, make more letters to spell a word.

Snow Carvings – pack snow into several large totes, compress firmly, and allow to freeze for several days. Then gently flip it out so you have several large snow blocks for the children to carve. Give younger children thick wooden dowels or tongue depressors. Garden tools such as metal trowels, rakes, or bulb planters can add variety to the carvings.

Drawing or Mark Making in the Snow - use a stick to create pictures in the snow. Remember Peter in Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats? Try dragging a stick behind you to create a trail, make shapes, letters, names, messages, and drawings. Then photograph and create a class book.

Snowy Land Art - snow acts a beautiful white canvas for our young artist to create on. Offer bird food, items from nature, cranberries, ---. Take a photograph the day you create it and then observe to see if any footprints appear in the snow. Who would have eaten our art?!

Ice Sculptures - obviously we won't be bringing out chain saws for our preschoolers to carve huge ice blocks, but there are still fun sculptures to create. Freeze large containers of water with different colors added. Stack the blocks (using salt if needed to make them stick to one another). You could make a variety of Inukshuks like the Inuit use to point the way. Or you could make abstract sculptures. Check pinterest for more inspiration!

Color the Snow

Transform your white covered play space into a sea of colors. There are many ways to color the snow, and children will delight in any or all of these techniques! Take pictures of the kids masterpieces since they will disappear under the next snow fall!

Pros & Cons of Painting Options:

Food coloring - add to water creating a concentrated solution. This creates bright colors, is relatively cheap but can stain clothes.

Kool-aid - dilute packets into warm water so that it all dissolves. This creates bright colors, comes in wide variety of colors, smells great, is inexpensive, but can stain clothes. (Some children may attempt to drink it since it smells like candy.)

Tempera or washable paint - will not stain clothes but the colors are dull. One frugal tip is to save your “empty” tempera paint containers. Add water and shake, let sit for a couple of days and repeat. Use this diluted paint for outdoor paintings. Also, when you are cleaning the easel paint cups, add water to the leftover bit and use as diluted paint.

Liquid watercolors - vibrant colors, can be diluted with water, totally washable & does not stain, but the most expensive option.

Crushed up sidewalk chalk - if you

Snow Spray Painting: fill small spray bottles with water and coloring. Show the kids how to spray AWAY from themselves. Try out the spray bottles ahead of time to make sure that kids can easily spray them independently.

Experiment with color saturation - when I spray close the color is darker and when I spray far away the color is lighter.

Create oversized stencils from cardboard or poster board.

Lay down 4 sticks to create picture frames.

Purchase old frames at a thrift shop and create an outdoor gallery

Snow Painting with Brushes: use diluted tempera paint (or any washable paint). Use paint cups from the easel but keep them in a tray or basket so they don't tip over. If you are doing this activity with multiple children, create a “canvas” for each child's artwork using a cardboard piece and press into the ground. Create your art gallery in an out of the way area so the work can be enjoyed for several days (or until the next big snowfall)!

Drip Paintings: on warmer days you could offer small cups of colored water and either turkey basters, eye droppers, or squeeze bottles (such as ketchup bottle). Kids can create various effects.

Powdered Tempura: sprinkle onto the snow on a day that has wet flurries OR use a spray bottle with water.

Animal Tracks

Animal Tracks- after a fresh snowfall, it's so much fun to find and follow a set of animal tracks in your back yard (even cat tracks are fun to find). See how far you can follow an animal tracks and try to figure out who left those tracks. Take a photograph and then find it's match in a track book. (Older children might enjoy drawing the tracks they find into a journal and identifying them.)

Who are the frequent visitors?

Winter Track Walk: Taking a winter walk in the forest looking for animal tracks can be quite the adventure for young children. Explain that in addition to tracks people also look for tree scarring and scat (animal droppings). Look for real animal tracks. Any time that tracks are found look around the area closely without disturbing the tracks. Take a photograph of the tracks so that you can print and make a book of your discoveries. Look for other signs of animal activity - chewed acorn shells, scat, and scratches in bark.

* Give each child their own 'Animal Track Pattern Cards' to wear as necklace. (www.pbskids.org used to have one from Curious George but the link is no longer active. Another printable version can be found in the Project Season book from Shelburne Farms.)

*Follow the Footprints activity: Make animal footprints that are to scale of the actual size of the animal. (I am using Deer & Moose this year.) Laminate the sheets for durability. Before the students arrive, put the footprints out in the outdoor space. Then have the children track the prints down and follow the animal. {If there is snow on the ground, stomp out human footprints in various sized boots instead.}

* Flip Flop Tracks - there are lots of pins on Pinterest showing how people transform flip flops into various animal tracks. It would be fun to make these so they could be tied onto a pair of boots, then kids could stomp out their own versions of animal tracks.

***Make a cast of a track**

Small Scale Track Making : Bring a few plastic toy animals outdoors. Show the kids how they can make the animals walk through the snow leaving behind mini tracks.

Tracking Basket: in the outdoor play space, display an animal track identification poster on the fence or wall. Keep a small tracking manual or plastic tracking cards available for the kids to explore. Animal Tracks matching cards could be laminated and kept on a ring. One set that is very preschool age appropriate can be found at - <http://www.2teachingmommies.com/2010/09/forest.html>

Indoor Gross Motor Games

Indoor Snowball Toss- using paper snowballs, rolled up socks, practice golf balls, ping pong balls, or white bean bags. Set up buckets or rings to toss into. Review guidelines for indoor toss games! For older children you could make up a set of plates or pie pans that have a number written onto them; the child adds their points as they toss their snowballs. {Kids love to make their own snowballs! Give them scrap paper and roll of masking tape. Add in some math skills such as ordering by size(small, medium, large), counting groups, and comparing sets of snowballs. } **Mitten Toss Game** - take a couple pairs of small knit mittens and fill with fiber-fill. Sew shut and use to toss into a bucket or hoop. Use the same concept as above.

Indoor Snowball Bowling- using recycled drink bottles or snack containers, decorate them as a snow theme. Make the pins to resemble snowmen or add snowflakes to them. Have the kids bowl with an oversized snowball (white ball) or

Ice Fishing - poles, fish, blue sheet as the pond; could add letters or numbers to the fish to work on early literacy or math skills

Floating Snowballs - inflate several white, clear, or blue balloons. Establish the rules before playing - each person (or team) must keep the snowball (balloon) floating in the air using their hands (or head, breath, elbow, ect.) The child can move around the room but the balloon cannot touch any object or it 'melts'. Noncompetitive - if you snowball melts you can pretend to make a new one and pick up your balloon and start again. Competitive - the person who keeps it from melting the longest is the winner.

What is covered in a blanket of snow? - the teacher covers a familiar object with a white blanket. The child has to feel to determine what's under the snow. Play this game during circle time until the kids can do it independently, and then make it a center.

Balancing on Icebergs - create a path of flat icebergs by cutting out shapes from white poster board. Begin by having the icebergs close and then as the kids play the game, spread them further apart. Decide on the rules with you children - for younger kids as long as their foot is touching an iceberg they are safe, but older children can play that if any part of their foot is off the iceburg then they are frozen. (Can a team mate unfreeze/thaw them?) Add other obstacles?

Indoor Ice Skating - two sheets of wax paper on carpet, or if you have tile or linoleum the kids could wear socks to skate in.

Balancing Snowballs on wooden spoons

Hot Potato/ Cold Ice - explain the rules for playing hot potato, then play the game using a ball or potato. When the music stops clap for the person with the potato. Then explain since it is winter we are going to pass an ice cube, play until the music stops and clap for the person holding the ice cube. (Competitive version - the person with the ice cube is out, and play continues in the circle.)

Art Ideas

Shaving Cream Prints spread shaving cream on trays and provide liquid water colors to drip on top. Kids swirl the paint then press a piece of paper on top to make a print. {Paper can be cut into shapes such as snowman, snowflakes, or icicles.}

Mitten Paint Blotto: Day one - fold cardstock in half and drip paint onto one side and fold. Let dry. Day two - child puts hand onto outside of card, draw mitten shape, and then cut out. Reveal identical pairs. Mix up mittens & match pairs!

Beaded Snowflakes -need pipe cleaners, beads in white, clear, blue. Add a hanger using either dental floss or fishing line. Explain to the kids that the snowflake needs 6 arms, but each snowflake is unique. This is will likely continue throughout the theme since beading is a favorite activity!

Snowflake Print Making - put white glittery paint into a shallow pie pan. Lay out a variety of materials for print making: bottom of berry basket, bottom of a spool of thread, snowflake shaped cookie cutters, toilet paper rolls with slits cut out with decorative scissors. (Dark blue paper).

Snowflake Handprints – use blue construction paper. Dip hands into white paint. Paint three lines to form a star, then paint 6 handprints at the end of the spokes. This should form a circle, be sure not to overlap the hands & try to have the fingers in the same position for each print.

Snowman Collages - using card stock pre-cut into the shape of a snowman and lots of open ended accessories for the kids to choose: googly eyes, mini sticks, scarves, hats, whole punches as buttons, mini pom poms, real buttons, popsicle sticks, straw pieces, paper beads, feathers, sequins,

Yarn Snowballs - give each child a small balloon inflated with air. The children dip pieces of white yarn into watered down Elmer's Glue. Wrap yarn all around the balloon, sprinkle with glitter, and dry overnight. Then pop the balloon.

Painting with Ice Cubes – freeze several trays of ice cubes & food coloring or paint with a popsicle stick in it. Show the children how to hold the stick and 'paint' with the melting ice cube. Paint onto thin white construction paper or coffee filters.

Glitter Icicles - Have kids create thick lines of glue on wax paper (or laminate scraps). Let glue run. Sprinkle with glitter and let dry.

Igloo Sculptures - turn paper bowl upside down. Cut out door and insert toilet paper roll, glue in place. Decorate igloo with either collage materials in snow colors, or cover in puffy snow. Create puffy snow by mixing 1 part shaving cream and 1 part Elmer's glue - creates 3D effect.

Igloo Prints - dip balloon into white paint. Then press onto bottom of paper so just a half circle is on the paper. (Kids may like to do a snowman version, pressing different ways to make sm, med, large circles. {Open Ended - many papers will look like a blizzard instead!}) Other ideas - use different sized corks cut in half or potatoes cut into the shape of an igloo.

Additional Art Ideas (this page not listed in the lesson plans)

***Homemade Snow Globes** - prior to beginning clean baby food jars well. To the lid hot glue a seasonal figure such as a snowman, sled, pine tree, or holiday designs. Plastic or ceramic figures are best since metal will rust. Plastic cupcake or cake toppers with the pick cut off are affordable and come in a variety of themes. To the jar add distilled water, white glitter, and a small amount of glycerin (which makes the glitter fall slower). Make sure that the figurine will fit into the jar when the lid is screwed on, if it's too big try a larger jar. The liquid in the jar should fill almost the entire jar. Screw the lid on and try a few practice shakes - add more glitter if needed, and then hot glue the lid to the jar. To make it look more finished, paint the lid to match the scene and add a bit of thin ribbon around the lid. (could also add sequins, small foam snowflakes, beads, etc. & for the lid you could cover in glitter glue) Note: to make them more of a keepsake, you may want to sand the inside of the lid and add a silicone rubber sealant when adding the figurine, then add more when screwing the jar shut. More ideas at this blog: <http://www.teachpreschool.org/2011/12/snow-globe-sensory-play/>

***Winter Scene Collages** - show children how to use cut paper scraps to create a snowy landscape scene ~ add hills, snow covered trees, houses, and animals. When done, children can coat it with a layer of clear glitter glue or a grown up can use Mod Podge.

***Snowy Sun Catchers** - using contact paper layer on: tissue paper squares, scraps from cutting snowflakes from coffee filters or white paper, glitter, and any other snowy collage materials. Make a frame out of construction paper to make it look like a window or a snow globe. <http://www.dillydaliart.com/2012/01/easy-winter-windows.html>

*** Q-Tip Snowflake Creations** - provide a variety of glitter glues, white glue, kid scissors and q-tips. Also provide some pre-cut q-tips for kids who find cutting them too difficult. Either provide blue construction paper to mount the snowflake creations onto or make them on wax paper. For the later choice, let the snowflakes dry overnight before adding a ribbon to hang them up. Super simple, but lots of fun! {My son enjoyed the q-tip cutting as much as the snowflake creating. It led to a great discussion about ordering by length. I love when math comes up during art time!!! This was NOT a good project for my daughter though (2.5 years old) because she kept trying to stick the q-tips in her ears! So this might be better suited for school aged children.} This blog has some more q-ity snowflake inspiration! <http://intellokids.blogspot.com/2010/11/preschool-kids-q-tip-snow-flake-craft.html>

***Indoor Snowballs** - recycled white copy paper and masking tape. My kids both love to play with tape so this was a fun project on a frigid snowy day. When you have a bunch of snowballs, have a snowball fight by throwing them at stuffed animals or create a gentler snowball toss game.

Bleeding Tissue Paper Snowflake Prints- <http://artfulparent.typepad.com/artfulparent/2009/12/snowflake-prints-with-bleeding-tissue-paper.html>

Snowmen from Egg Cartons - 3 sections of egg cups, decorate with pom poms, googly eyes, small buttons, paper cut-outs of boots & hats

Snowflake Window Clings - glue, wax paper, glitter <http://almostunschoolers.blogspot.com/2009/11/make-snowflake-window-clings-out-of.html>

Painting using fingerprints or q-tips to dab white paint into a snowman shape.

Cotton Ball snowmen -

** Handprint Polar Bear - White paint onto blue paper. Take a picture of the child next to the Polar Bear in the Museum. Put into a frame and give as a Valentine Gift for families.

"If You Should Meet a Polar Bear" poem

<http://www.playbasedlearning.com.au/2011/03/winter-wonderland/>

** Snowflake Painting Using Masking Tape - <http://www.frugalfamilyfunblog.com/2009/12/art-so-easy-toddler-can-do-it.html>

** Blue Paper & White Paint - fingerprints as snowflakes, thread spools, potato stamps,

Easy Snowflake Sun Catchers - <http://www.frugalfamilyfunblog.com/2010/01/easy-snowflake-suncatchers.html>

Snowman Mobile - <http://jennwa.blogspot.com/2009/01/snowman-mobile.html>

Three paper plates connected with yarn is a frugal and easy preschool project. Laying out a wide assortment of materials makes this a very open ended project!

Snowman for the Class - 3 white trash bags filled with crumbled newspaper. Glue on paper or foam features!

Salty Watercolor Glue Pictures of Snowmen - (can I add any more adjectives to that title?) <http://momsbyheart.net/guest-post-frugal-summer-art-project/>

Tie Dye Coffee Filter Snowflakes - <http://prekandksharing.blogspot.com/2011/12/tie-dye-coffee-filter-snowflakes.html>

Puffy Snow Paint - the first time I tried this my son was 2 and we were at a community playgroup. I seriously couldn't believe that the mixture dries as nicely as it does. Working with it it is soft and fluffy but dries and stays 3D. To make simply mix 1 part white glue to 4 parts shaving cream. Sprinkle on some painted rice or glitter for an added effect!

Cut out a large circle from a piece of corrugate cardboard. Attach the lid to a table and place large construction paper underneath. Have the children paint snowballs with the Puffy Snow paint. (or cut out a snowman shape)

Snowflake building using mini marshmallows and toothpicks

Fine Motor Skills

There are fine motor skills throughout the lesson plans provided. Listed below are some additional ideas if you need to add more fine motor work for children in your program.

- Tweezer “snowballs” (cotton balls) into ice cube trays
- Sparkle Snow tray – mix regular salt & silver glitter and place in a shallow tray. Children explore mark making with their finger
- Pom poms (white or blue) poke into the holes from a recycled parmesan cheese shaker; if larger poms cut holes from a box to push them through.
- Cutting snowflakes (try different weight materials – tissue paper, coffee filters, copy paper, construction paper)
- Scooping & pouring at the water and sensory table
- Lacing around a plate that looks like a snowman
- Yarn Wrapping – give children small animals to wrap up in white yarn scraps to transform them into snow covered animals. (Kids will wrap and unwrap them many times)
- Crayon rubbings – winter colors to make snowy scenes, add texture plates under paper for various designs
- Create a tearing bin with white paper - use the paper scraps to make a snowy scene
- Deconstruct a pine cone - lots of hard work for little fingers
- Packing snow into snowballs
- Clothespins – hang up winter clothes onto a clothesline; either a miniature version with felt cut outs, or find a space in the classroom for real winter clothes (mitten, scarf, hats) for kids to hang
- Water transfer activity using eyedroppers
- Pinching glitter or coarse salt – give children a small pre-cut snowman shape, children brush on white glue with a cheap paint brush, then using pinching fingers get glitter from a small container and sprinkle onto the glue. Shake excess into a tray.
- Erase tips on pencils dipped into paint (or white ink pad) and make a snowball fight
- Q-tip painting – different shades of blue and white paint, dab onto construction paper for a snowy scene
- Bead work – clear, white, and blues to make winter jewelry or pipe cleaner snowflakes
- Straws & string – children cut straws into small pieces, then lace onto a shoestring or yarn
- Poke-a-page using toothpicks – children poke around a pre-drawn shape (snowman, snowflake) or make their own design
- Play dough (see next page for ideas)
- Oversized Felt Snowman – I introduce this activity at the beginning of our Winter Study. At morning meeting, I have an oversized snowman cut from white felt. I also cut all of the snowman features from colorful felt. Each day, I have a ‘snowman helper’ who dresses and decorates the snowman in different ways. I take photographs each day, and make a little book of our snowmen! (Many kids have not explored with felt boards and are often excited to discover that felt sticks to felt. If you rub the colorful felt pieces with a scouring pad, the decorations will stick more easily.)

Play Dough Center

Cloud Dough - To make simply **mix 8 cups of flour and 1 cup of vegetable oil**. For making at home, I would likely start with just 2 Cups of flour and 1/4 cup of oil. The consistency should be like moon sand. To contain the mess, I put the dough into a under the bed storage bin and laid it on a tarp. Small cups, sand molds, cookie cutters in the shape of snowmen & snowflakes, popsicle sticks for cutting, and plastic woodland animals to make prints.

Kool-Aid Playdough - One batch blue and one batch clear. the clear kool-aid doesn't have a color but has a scent, you could add some white tempera paint or glitter to it for variety!

Ingredients: 1 ¼ cup flour, ¼ cup salt, 1 pkg unsweetened Kool-aid powder, 1 cup boiling water, 1 ½ Tbsp vegetable oil

Directions: In a bowl, mix flour, salt and kool-aid. Stir in water and oil. Knead with hands for about 5 minutes. Store in ziploc bag for up to 2 months. This play dough smell great which may be too much temptation for younger children. We like this type of dough for it's vivid color!

Snow Dough/ Bright White Playdough - I've tried several versions over the years but my favorite was found at this blog --

<http://www.thechocolatemuffintree.com/2012/01/two-kinds-of-snow-dough.html>

To encourage snowman making I took the blogs suggestions and added: buttons, small piece of shiny pipe cleaners, beans, and beads!!! Maybe for carrot noses I will make rolled paper beads?

Ingredients: 1 cup cornstarch, 2 cup salt, 1 tbsp oil, 1 tbsp cream of tartar, 1 cup boiling (or nearly boiling) water, few drops liquid glycerin (makes it smoother), silver glitter

Directions: In a bowl, mix all the dry ingredients, then add the oil, grown up pours in boiling water, and mix. Let cool for a bit, then knead until smooth, add in glitter.

Extra Ideas:

InstaSnow - just add water mixes. Steve Spangler brand now available at Amazon. Dollar Store variety has a chemical smell. ☹

Soapy Snow Exploration - tear toilet paper into small pieces (Charmin Ultra) and grate Ivory soap into a bin. Add water and let it sit over night. In the morning drain any extra water off. (Preschoolers love to squeeze the mixture with their hands.) Provide small forms, silicone cups and shapes they can fill and pop out. Molding sculptures and squishing it through their fingers is great fun! Do not put down the drain though!

Ice Skating Rink - freeze water in a 9x13 pan and play on the playdough table (towel underneath). Kids make playdough people & snowmen to go ice skating on the big ice rink!

Frozen Pond - fill large turkey tray 1/3 full of water. Lay in plastic frogs, snakes, and fish at the bottom of the water. Freeze overnight. Lay on playdough table with woodland animals that stay awake in winter.

Slushy Diaper Snow -this link has an idea for making 'snow' from diapers <http://jennwa.blogspot.com/2010/01/making-snow.html>

Water Table:

Real Snow Exploration - fill the water tub with snow. Add a variety of small sand shovels, spoons, cups, strainers, etc.

Pretend Snowflakes - fill the water table with water and add a variety of plastic snowflakes. Add fishing nets and strainers for the kids to scoop up the snowflakes.

Snow Ball Exploration - using a snowball maker make a bunch of snowballs before preschool begins. Leave the batches outdoors overnight to really solidify. Hide a little toy inside some of the snow balls.

Mini Snowmen Meet the Hair Dryer - help the kids to make mini snowmen in the water table. Then transfer them to individual plastic tubs. After talking about how snow melts, bring out a hair dryer. "Ask what do you think will happen?"

Craft Foam Snowman Shapes in the Water Table - (get inspired to make craft foam shapes for the bath tub at the this great [blog!](#))

Soapy Snow Exploration - tear toilet paper into small pieces (Charmin Ultra) and grate Ivory soap into the water table. Add water and let it sit over night. In the morning drain any extra water off. Preschoolers love to squeeze the mixture with their hands. Provide small forms, silicone cups and shapes they can fill and pop out. Molding sculpters and squishing it through their fingers is great fun! Do not put down the drain though!

Shaving Cream -

Ice Skating - big blocks of ice, small figures

Colored Ice Cubes -

Real Icicles -

Snow & Ice - and compare the time it takes to melt

Icebergs - freeze multiple cups and bowls full of water. Provide arctic animals (Arctic Toob by Safari Toys).

"Ice Break" - freeze small toys in plastic containers, provide spoons and tools to free the objects

Frozen Hands - using laytex gloves make frozen hands

Real & Pretend Ice - add real ice cubes and the "Ice Cubes" from the game - "Don't Break the Ice"

Sensory Bin:

* **Pretend Snow Bin** - two bags of fake paper snow (half price at the Dollar Store!), white & blue pom poms to be snowballs, some pulled apart cotton balls. Add a variety of scoops, tongs, tweezers, and mini sand shovels.

* **Snow Globe Bin** -same bin contents from the pretend snow bin but add small jars with mini figurines hot glued to the lid. Add appropriate sized spoons so kids can scoop 'snow' into the 'snow globe' and some loose figurines for the kids to play with. Since we are learning about Snowflake Bentley this day, add magnifying glasses to examine the snow bin more closely! (Decide whether to use just plastic containers or glass baby food jars.) Inspired by Deborah's post at: <http://www.teachpreschool.org/2011/12/snow-globe-sensory-play/>

* **Snowballs Bin** - ping pong balls, golf balls, and practice golf balls. Paper towel and gift wrap tubes cut in half to make ramps. We are learning today about spheres so let's examine how spheres roll!

* **Snowman Assembly Bin** - add features to the ping pong balls. If time, I might make pretend carrots from salt dough and add various other snowman features such as real buttons, felt scarves, and few small stick arms. Inspired by a photo on this blog - <http://katherinemaries.com/blog/archives/11089>

Other ideas for snow sensory play:

Slushy Diaper Snow - <http://jennwa.blogspot.com/2010/01/making-snow.html>

Hail Bin - Naturally white rocks and painted glittery white rocks - would be fun to have a chart of actual sized hail to compare to the pretend hail!

Snowball Surprise - grate Ivory soap bars, add a bit of water. Take a small plastic toy and cover with the soap. Mold into the shape of a snowball!

Sensory trays with sand, salt or flour (white powders)

Baking Soda Sensory Play - adding small bits of vinegar, <http://mamasmiles.com/?p=2315>

Colored Salt Crystals (could make as a Valentine gift for Moms?) - coarse salt like Epsom salt or ice cream salt, liquid water color paints, bowl, wooden spoon, and a cookie sheet or lined cardboard tray to have them dry.

Writing Center:

The writing center is one of the most important parts of my preschool classroom. To keep this area interesting, I continually change the materials, make it tidy & inviting, and keep it stocked with lots of open-ended materials for the children to explore. For our winter study, I switch out the bowls and containers to either blue, white, or shimmery to give the center an icy feel.

Paper – blues, whites, snow themed scrapbook paper

Die cuts of snowmen

Pre-cut circles for snowballs (kids often tape or glue them together to make snowmen)

Paper folded in half with half a circle for kids to cut out their own

Paper folded in half with half a snowman for kids to cut out their own (other simple shapes too – hearts, diamond)

Bling for decorating snowmen – sequins, rhinestones, glitter glue

Snowflake & snowmen rubber stamps and glittery snow colored ink pads

Snowflake tracers cut from corrugated cardboard

Paper punches – I found snowmen and snowflake ones that are easy for the kids to punch out themselves

Pom poms and sparkly yarns – seem to inspire snowy scenes or decorated snowmen

White Crayons on dark construction paper – many kids love exploring with white on black

Snowman Cards - using card stock pre-cut into the shape of a snowman and lots of open ended accessories for the kids to choose: googly eyes, mini sticks, scarves, hats, whole punches as buttons, mini pom poms, real buttons

Snowflake Coloring Sheet & glitter crayons- I prefer not to put out many coloring sheets, but I find that some children truly enjoy coloring and having coloring sheets available will pique their interest in the writing center

“Frozen” stickers – I prefer to not offer commercial or licensed merchandise but having a couple packs of Elsa and Anna stickers inspired some of my littlest children to come create some artwork and to talk, and sing, and act out the movie!

Snowy Word Wall – I like to post a few winter words that are illustrated so children can copy them, if they wish

Discovery Area / Science Center: At the heart of an early childhood classroom should be an area for discovery that children have access to for at least one hour per day. For my classroom, the “Discovery Area”, which other educators may refer to as the “Science Center”, is often the hub of activity and is a central focus of my teaching. I like to think of this area as a hands-on lab for ongoing observation, exploring, and investigation for the children. This area connects to the season and outdoor environment so that children can build a connection to their natural world. Children and families often contribute items to the discovery area, and this gives them even greater ownership of the space. In my classroom, I have annual reviews using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) and so I use this tool as a guide to ensure that the Discovery Area has all the components needed. ECERS-3 suggests that there be at least 15 nature/science materials, some from each of five categories: living things, natural objects, factual books/nature-science picture games, tools, and sand or water.

Winter Study & the Discovery Area – when first starting a new study, the discovery area is sparse and accumulates more things as we learn and investigate. In my teaching, this area is child-directed, and we bring out materials or resources based on children’s interests, questions, as well as family input. This means that each year we do a Winter Study, the discovery area looks different. Towards the end of the study this area might include:

Living things, – outdoor bird feeder to observe winter birds, indoor house plants for observing and caring for (amaryllis is great winter blooming plant and lends itself to measurement activities since it has rapid growth), and our classroom pets. Toward the end of our winter study we also begin to dream and plan our outdoor garden, and children seem to enjoy the March arrival of seed catalogs almost as much as I do!

Natural objects- as we take winter walks, we bring in nature items we find. Chewed up pinecones, broken acorns, fallen sticks, lingering leaves, and bird feathers are of great interest to the children. Baskets and bins of objects found in fall also continue to reside in the Discovery Area, such as dead insects (stored in clear plastic containers), rocks, seashells, or collections of seeds. The book, Snowballs by Lois Ehlert, often inspires the children to create a collection of materials to in a sack, in preparation for decorating snowmen. Allowing children to pick out nature items to take home, so they can decorate their very own snowmen, is a fun way to inspire children to have their own set of ‘natural objects’.

Factual books/ nature-science picture games – the discovery area must include at least 5 nature/science books, so we include books about snow, animal tracks, animals in winter, and posters or photos of animal tracks. Puzzles and games that feature woodland animals, as well as tracking or snowflake matching games are also enjoyed. Photocopies of snowflake shapes and card stock copies of animal tracks are wonderful tools for children to learn about at preschool, and then take home.

Tools- magnifying glasses, binoculars to observe the outdoor bird feeders, snowfall gauges,

Sand or water with toys – these are not included in my ‘discovery area’ but rather in the wet zone of my classroom. During our winter study, the water table often begins with snow or ice that transforms into water.(See page 23 for water table ideas) The sand table doesn’t directly connect to our winter study, but children enjoy the sensory experience (and its presence reminds me of summer travel). More Sensory ideas on page 24

Bulletin Board Ideas for Winter Studies

Post quote onto the board for parents to read: “When a snowflake melted, that design was forever lost. Just that much beauty was gone, without leaving any record behind.” – Wilson Bentley

Documentation of our investigations: post photographs of the children observing snowflakes on the snowflake catcher necklaces & with the microscopes. Type up brief description of Snowflake Bentley and his life’s work; type up narratives of the children explaining their learning.

Interactive activity on the bulletin board for children – “Snowflake Matching Game” Print out two copies of snowflake images and laminate both. Post one set of the snowflakes onto the board, and place the other set in a basket. Add Velcro so that children can find the match and connect them with Velcro. (Alternatively, this could be done by snipping snowflakes from coffee filters and using contact paper to preserve them.)

Extending the learning – to make another Snowflake Matching Activity that is even more interactive, consider making a tray activity like this blogger made: <http://strongstart.blogspot.com/2012/01/play-trays.html>

Family Connections to Winter Studies

Dear Families,

In January, we will begin our “Winter Study” in preschool. Living in Vermont means cold winters, but it doesn’t mean that you need to stay indoors. Hopefully children will be inspired to explore all that winter has to offer through the activities we do at preschool. Each week in our newsletter, I will be sending home ideas on ways that you can continue to explore winter at home. If you have a special winter talent (tracking, skiing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, dog sleds, etc.) please let me know, since we would love to have guest visitors come in to talk about or demonstrate how they enjoy winter.

Also, I would love if you printed and brought in photographs of your child or family outdoors playing. It’s wonderful to share pictures of the children skiing, building a snow fort, making snow angels, or anything your family enjoys! We will discuss the pictures at morning meeting and then display them on our Family Board, so children can examine and continue to talk about the different ways families enjoy winter.

One important thing to remember is that at preschool we believe that “there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing”. We plan on spending time outdoors every day this winter as long as the temperatures reach 10F. Please be sure that your child has all the necessary gear (see parent handbook) to be comfortable. I have a collection of quality gloves, hats, and snow pants that have been donated to the classroom, and I am happy to share so all children feel comfortable playing outdoors.

As a culminating activity (likely in February), we will create a HUGE snow quinzee big enough for all the children to climb into. This will require lots of shoveling, and I would appreciate some helping hands.

Warm wishes,

April Zajko

Thematic Healthy (for the most part) Snack Ideas:

Igloo Snack - slice an apple in half and carefully take out the seeds by cutting the away the middle portion. Lie it on the plate with the cut side down. Cover with a stick substance, we chose peanut butter since it has some nutritional value. (Fluff or Cool-whip would be white and possibly look nicer but neither are healthy choices.) Give the child a small bowl of mini marshmallows to create their own igloo. I wanted my kids to share the igloo so I pre-cut it into slices before spreading the peanut butter. Both kids LOVED this snack and it was voted the best of the snow snacks I made!

Igloo made Vermont Style (a.k.a. Cabot Cheese House) To make, I laid down a small glass bowl to act as the base. Then I sliced the best cheddar cheese in the world. To build I started at the bottom and worked my way to the top. My kiddos liked this igloo almost as much as the marshmallow one, can you believe that?!

Snowman Noses - just a really cute way to say we are eating raw carrots. I sent some in my son's lunch box and wrote on the Ziploc, "Uh oh, some snowman is now missing his nose!" (kids like that kind of humor!)

Snowman Lunch Scapes - I used cucumber slices for three snowballs of the snowman, and carved a simple cucumber hat. I made the arms and nose from a carrot by slicing them to size. Raisins for eyes and buttons. Since I was making lunch - I cut a sandwich into fourths and laid it at the bottom of the plate as the snow that the snowman would stand on.

Homemade Cocoa - Snowmen at Night says snowmen drink iced cocoa, talk about why they can't drink hot cocoa. Taste test - hot cocoa v. iced cocoa

Snow Ice Cream : 1 Cup milk, 1/2 Cup sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 5-7 cups of clean and fluffy snow.

Mix together milk, vanilla, and sugar. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Slowly add the snow, stirring constantly, until it is thick or a consistency you like. We made "Cold Cocoa Snow Ice Cream" so we also added 2 T. cocoa powder, 1/4 C chocolate chips, and a sprinkle of mini marshmallows on top!

Cracker Man - three circular crackers spread with flavored cream cheese, pretzel stick arms, veggie features! Easy and super cute.

Tortilla Snowflake - fold a flour tortilla into fourths and cut away a few sections to make a snowflake. Warm in an un-oiled frying pan then sprinkle with cheese. Serve with salsa or bean dip.

Apple Snowflake- arrange six slices of apple in a snowflake shape. We added craisins to the center but a little bowl of yogurt or peanut butter to dip into!

Cheesy Snowman Face - lay a slice of circular cheese (provolone is our favorite) add a mini carrot nose, raisin eyes, and slices of cucumber for mouths.

Banana Man - three circles of banana, peanut butter for buttons & facial features, mini pretzel sticks for arms

Snowman "Open Face" sandwich - either a bagel half, rice cake, English muffin, or slice of bread cut into a circle. Lay on either lunchmeat cut to size or spread with a topping such as cream cheese or peanut butter. Add features for the face with whatever fruits or veggies your kiddos would enjoy! Use just one circle as head or two as a head and body if you want a heartier snack or a lunch.

Snowman Breakfast - make silver dollar pancakes and serve three small pancakes arranged as a snowman. Another less labor intensive option is to use a snowman cookie cutter. Serve a small bowl with raisins, craisins, fruit slices, etc. for your kiddos to decorate their own pancakes. And don't forget to serve Vermont Maple Syrup for a true feast!

Snow Ice Cream : 1 Cup milk, 1/2 Cup sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 6 cups of clean and fluffy snow. (I put out a clean bowl and gather a batch of freshly fallen snow to use.)

Mix together milk, vanilla, and sugar. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Slowly add the snow, stirring constantly, until it is thick or a consistency you like. I am thinking of making "Cold Cocoa Snow Cream" so we'll add 2 T. cocoa powder, 1/4 C chocolate chips, and a sprinkle of mini marshmallows on top!

Shaved Ice Snowcones - kind of chilly for us to make right now, but I know the kids would love to make these!

Online Resources for Winter Studies



Snowflake Matching activity - <http://www.1plus1plus1equals1.com/WinterFunTotPack.html>

"No Two are Alike" / Snowflake Prints <http://www.teachpreschool.org/2011/12/exploring-things-that-are-not-alike-in-preschool/>

Solid, Liquid, Gas using a melting snowman! <http://www.frugalteacher.com/2011/09/life-cycle-of-snowman.html>

Snowflake Puzzles - <http://www.teachpreschool.org/2011/01/snowflake-puzzles-in-preschool/>

Ice - <http://www.gettingmessywithmsjessi.com/2012/01/ice-adventures.html>

Homemade Window Clings (shaped like snowflakes) would be a great craft for older children. <http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/glittery-window-clings-674868/>

Snowman Songs - <http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/snowmen/songs.htm>

Winter Theme Ideas and free printables - <http://www.pre-kpages.com/winter/>

Snowy Day Lap Book printables - http://www.homeschoolshare.com/b4_resources_snowy_day.php

Winter Word Cards (great for the writing center) <http://prekinders.com/2010/01/winter-word-cards/>

Free Winter Printables for preschoolers - <http://www.1plus1plus1equals1.com/WinterFunTotPack.html>

Winter Water Cycle - <http://www.2teachingmommies.com/2012/01/winter-water-cycle.html>

Lots of great winter center ideas from <http://www.2teachingmommies.com/search/label/Winter>

Make some virtual snowflakes at <http://snowdays.popularfront.com/>

Ice Cream Snowmen - <http://teaching2and3yearolds.blogspot.com/2012/01/ice-cream-snowmen.html>

Mixed Up Snowman Snack - <http://www.gourmetmomonthego.com/2010/12/ive-been-crazy-busy-lately-and-it-has.html>

Children's Booklist for Winter Studies

Science behind snow & winter: (some of these are for adults, but the pictures are excellent to share with children)

Anderson, Maxine. *Explore Winter!*

Bentley, W.A. and W.J. Humphreys. *Snow Crystals*

Branley, Franklyn M. *Snow is Falling*

Callaghan, Jean Davis. *No Snow for Seth*

Cole, Joanna. *Plants in Winter*

Cassino & Nelson. *The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder*

Drake, Jane and Ann Love. *The Kids Winter Cottage Book*

Edison, Erin. *Snow*

Glasser, Linda. *It's Winter!*

Hernandez, Christopher. *Learn about weather: Snow*

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Snowflake Bentley* (Caldecott Medal Winner)

Schweninger, Ann. *Wintertime- Let's Look at the Seasons*

Stewart, Paul. *A Little Bit of Winter*

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Living in a World of White- Where Survival Means Blending In*

Taylor, Barbara. *Hidden in the Snow*

Yankielun, Norbert. *How to Build an Igloo & Other Snow Shelters*

Snow, snowmen, and other not to miss winter stories:

Baker, Keith *No Two Alike*

Ball, Victoria. *Bear's Very Snowy Day*

Briggs, Raymond. *The Snowman*

Buehner, Caralyn. *Snowmen at Night*

Butler, M. Christina & Tina Macnaughton. *Snow Friends*

Cartwright, Stephen & Heather Amery. *The Snow Storm*

Cheng, Andrea. *Lemon Sisters.*

Child, Lauren. *Charlie and Lola: Snow is my favorite and best*

Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. *Let it Snow*

Coleman, Michael. *A Silly Snowy Day*

Cuyler, Margery. *The Biggest, Best Snowman*



Ehlert, Lois. ***Snowballs***
 George, Jean Craighead. ***Dear Rebecca, Winter is Here.***
 George, William T. ***Winter at the Long Pond.***
 Hest, Amy. ***A Snowy Surprise***
 Hoban, Julia. ***Amy Loves the Snow***
 Hudson, Cheryl Willis. ***What Do you Know? SNOW!***
 Judge, Lita. ***Red Sled***
 Keats, Ezra Jack. ***Snowy Day***
 Littledale, Freya. ***The Snow Child***
 Lotz, Karen E. ***Snowsong Whistling***
 Maestro, Betsy. ***Snow Day***
 Mammano, Julie. ***Rhinos Who Snowboard***
 McKie, Roy & P.D. Eastman. ***Snow***
 Medearis, Angela Shelf. ***Here Comes the Snow***
 Morgan, Allen. ***Sadie and the Snowman***
 Moss, Miriam. ***The Snow Bear.*** (forest animals make a snow bear for little bear cub)
 Nelson, Steve & Jack Rollins. ***Frosty the Snowman***
 North, Carol. ***Frosty the Snowman***
 O'Donnell, Elizabeth Lee. ***Winter Visitors.*** (counting book of animals sneaking into a girls home)
 Preller, James. ***Wake Me in Spring.***
 Plourde, Lynn. ***Snow Day***
 Pulver, Robin. ***Axle Annie***
 Rylant, Cynthia. ***Poppleton in Winter***
 Schechter, Deborah. ***Cold Rose***
 Scherer, Jeffrey. ***One Snowy Day***
 Schertle, Alice. ***All You Need for a Snowman***
 Smith, Dick. ***Winter Wonderland: Sleigh Bells Ring, Are You Listening?***
 Stringer, Lauren ***Winter is the Warmest Season.***
 Waddell, Martin. ***Owl Babies.***
 Voskoboinikov, Valery. ***The Icicle***
 Walters, Catherine. ***When will it be Spring?***
 Weinberger, Kimberley. ***Winter is Here***
 Yolen, Jane. ***Owl Moon.***



Bears and animals in winter:

Alborough, Jez. *Where is Teddy?*

Arnosky, Jim. *Every Autumn Comes the Bear.* (also includes pictures of ravens, bobcat, raccoon, chickadees, deer, bunnies, fox, & grouse. Simple text make it a great preschool read aloud.)

Bancroft, Henriette and Richard Van Gelder. *Animals in Winter.*

Benjamin, Cynthia and Jacqueline Rogers. *Footprints in the Snow.*

Berger, Melvin & Gilda. *What do Animals Do in Winter? How Animals Survive the Cold*

Bland, Nick. *The Very Itchy Bear*

Boring, Mel. *Rabbits, Squirrels, and Chipmunks.*

Brett, Jan. *Annie and the Wild Animals*

Brown, Tom. *Nature Observation & Tracking.*

Burns, Diane and Linda Garrow. *Tree, Leaves, and Bark (Take Along Guides)*

Carle, Eric and Bill Martin, Jr. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?*

Coleman, Michael. *A Silly Snowy Day*

Crossingham. *What is Hibernation?*

Denslow, Sharon Phillips. *In the Snow.* (chickadee, sparrow, cardinal, crow, squirrel, bunny, mouse & possum. Very simple text and engaging illustrations.)

Fisher, Ron. *Animals in Winter.*

Fleming, Denise. *Time to Sleep.*

Galdone, Paul. *The Three Bears*

Graham-Barber Lynda. *The Animals' Winter Sleep*

Hall, M. *Hibernation.*

Henkes, Kevin. *Old Bear.*

Holmer, Marilyn F. *Beaver Stream* (very informative, beautiful illustrations)

Kosara, Tori. *All About Hibernation*

Krauss, Ruth. *The Happy Day*

London, Jonathan. *Froggy's Best Christmas* (froggy, beaver, turtle & bear get to experience their first Christmas since they woke up from their winter naps.)

McPhail, David. *Big Brown Bear.*

Meadows, M. *Hibernation Station.*

Messner, Kate. *Over & Under the Snow.* (includes information on: red squirrels, shrews, deer, deer mice, voles, shoeshoe hares, bullfrogs, beavers, red fox, chipmunk, black bear, and bumblebees.)

Moore, Eva & Joanna Cole. *The Magic School Bus Sleeps for the Winter*



Moss, Miriam. ***The Snow Bear***
Murray, Marjorie Dennis. ***Don't Wake Up the Bear!***
Numeroff, Laura Joffe. ***If You Give a Moose a Muffin***
Rosen, Michael. ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt.***
Rustad, Martha E.H. ***Foxes and Their Dens.***
Salas, Laura Purdie. ***Do Polar Bears Snooze in Hollow Trees? A Book about Animal Hibernation.***
Schaefer, Lola. **Deer.** (Great pictures, clear language that answers kid's common questions about deer.)
Schechter, Deborah. ***Winter is Here*** (emergent Level A reader)
Souci, Daniel San. ***North Country Night.***
Tagliaferro, Linda. ***Bears and Their Dens.***
Waddell, Martin. ***Can't You Sleep Little Bear?***
Walters, Catherine. ***Time to Sleep Alfie Bear.*** (Set in the summer but a great book to share if you are learning about bears)
Wilson, Karma. ***Bear Snores On.***
Wright, Maureen. ***Sneeze, Big Bear, Sneeze!***
Yolen, Jane. ***Sleep, Black Bear, Sleep.*** (black bear, frog, bat, snake, turtle, gopher, skunk, badger, beaver, mouse, toad, & chipmunk)

Animal tracks:

Arnosky, Jim. ***Wild Tracks!*** (amazing book with fold out pages of life sized tracks)
Arnosky, Jim. ***I See Animals Hiding.***
Benjamin, Cynthia and Jacqueline Rogers. ***Footprints in the Snow.***
Boyle, Doe. ***Summer Coat, Winter Coat: The Story of a Snowshoe Hare***
Dendy, L. ***Tracks, Scats, and Signs.***
Dodd, Anne Wescott. ***Footprints and Shadows.***
Dorros, Arthur. ***Animal Tracks.***
George, Lindsay Barret. ***In the Snow: Who's Been Here?***
George, Lindsay Barret. ***In the Woods: Who's Been Here?***
Hulbert, Laura. ***Who Has These Feet?***
Hodgkins, F. ***Who's Been Here? A Tale in Tracks.*** (includes tracks from: cat, turkey, moose, skunk)
Jones, Jennifer. ***Who Lives in the Snow?***
Judge, Lita. ***Red Sled***
Levine, Lynn and Martha Mitchell. ***Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-Size Tracking Guide***



Miller, Dorcas. ***Track Finder: A Guide to Mammal Tracks of Eastern North America.***

Roberts, James Nail. ***Whose Tracks are These?***

Selsam, Millicent E. ***Big Tracks, Little Tracks.***

Sams, Laura. ***Stranger in the Woods - Photographic Fantasy.***

Lawlor, Elizabeth P. ***Discover Nature in Winter (Discover Nature Series)***

Stall, Chris and Steve Whitney. ***New England Animal Tracks.***

Wilson, Karma & Jack E. Davis. ***Moose Tracks!***

Yee, Wong Herbert. ***Tracks in the Snow.*** (A great story to introduce young children to tracking. A girl follows tracks around her home and discovers that they are her own tracks from the previous day.)

Polar theme:

Berger, Melvin & Gilda. ***What Polar Animals Eat***

Black, Sonia W. ***Follow the Polar Bears.***

Canizares, Susan & Daniel Moreton. ***Arctic Winter, Arctic Summer***

Canizares, Susan. ***Who Lives in the Arctic?***

Martin, Bill & Eric Carle. ***Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?***

Winter clothing theme:

Brett, Jan. ***The Hat***

Brett, Jan. ***The Mitten***

Butler, M. Christina. ***One Snowy Night***

Butler, M. Christina. ***One Winter's Day***

Kellogg, Steven. ***The Missing Mitten Mystery***

Neitzel, Shirley. ***The Jacket I Wear in the Snow***

Tresselt, Alvin. ***The Mitten***



Teacher's Booklist for Winter Studies

- Anderson, Maxine. ***Explore Winter!***
- Archer, Cheryl. ***Snow Watch***
- Bentley, W.A. and W.J. Humphreys. ***Snow Crystals***
- Cassino & Nelson. ***The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder***
- Cole, Joanna. ***Plants in Winter***
- Cvancara, Alan. ***Exploring Nature in Winter***
- Danks, Fiona & Jo Schofield. ***Nature's Playground: Activities, Crafts, and Games to Encourage Children to Get Outdoors.***
- Dendy, Leslie. ***Tracks, Scats, and Signs.***
- Drake, Jane and Ann Love. ***The Kids Winter Cottage Book***
- Garrett, Linda & Hannah Thomas. ***Small Wonders: Nature Education for Young Children***
- Hoyler, Emily & Linda Wellings. ***Cultivating Joy & Wonder: Educating for Sustainability in Early Childhood through Nature, Food & Community***
- Lawlor, Elizabeth. ***Discover Nature in Winter***
- Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. ***Snowflake Bentley*** (Caldecott Medal Winner)
- Parrella, Deborah. ***Project Seasons: Hands-on activities for discovering the wonders of the World.***
- VanCleave, Janice. ***Science Around the Year***
- Yankielun, Norbert. ***How to Build an Igloo & Other Snow Shelters***

