

Wildcat Hills Nature Center



Lil' Explorers: Snow

Snow!

This lesson plan was created to help you fill the day with fun, exciting outdoor learning opportunities. With a winter storm brewing, this timely topic will utilize items commonly found in or around our homes.

Outdoor Nature Play:

Bundle up and head outside (if it is not too cold or windy). Do you want to make a snowman? Bring along a little food coloring and water in a squirt or spray bottle (use what you have). Play a little tic-tac-toe or make beautiful snow painting.

Watch or listen to animals in the snow. What are those animals doing? Are they looking for food? Singing to a friend? Write down your observations or draw a picture

Books:

Scholastics (limited free online books and videos)
<https://bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/pair/detail/bk0059pr/start?authCtx=U.794217314>

Snow by Blastoff Readers

Snowflake Bentley, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

<https://bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/pair/detail/bk0004pr/start?authCtx=U.794217314>

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Snowy Weather Days by Katie Marsico

Snow Play:

Collect snow in a pan, cookie sheet or any large container. Let kiddo's free play! Bring out plastic animals, spoons, or scoops and let their imaginations run wild. It might get a bit messy with melting snow, so be prepared!

You can also practice writing your ABC's or numbers in the snow by using your fingers or paint brush.

Write a story and make a video of your plastic animal's adventure.

Crafts:

Ice painting:

Take a little food coloring and water and freeze in an ice cube tray. You can place a toothpick in the tray for a handle, but is not required. Once it is frozen, use the colored ice cubes to paint. This can also be done with adding coloring to snow and painting with melting snow.

Make a snowflake:

Use what you have (paint, chalk, markers, etc) to create a winter wonderland. Have the kiddo's draw a snowflake or winter scene. Add animals that might be found in the snow.

Sensory:

Snow Dough

1 cup baking soda

1/2 cup cornstarch

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

1/2 cup + 1 tablespoon water

Directions for Making Snow Dough

1. Combine all ingredients in a sauce pan. At first it will seem like you don't have enough liquid in your mixture, but keep stirring. Eventually you will end up with a very soupy liquid.

2. Place the pan over medium heat. Stir continuously. The mixture will remain soupy for about 5 minutes, and then all of a sudden begin to thicken.

3. Continue stirring until your mixture is quite thick.

4. Dump the mixture out onto a sheet of waxed paper or other surface too cool. Be careful! The mixture will be really hot— even hotter than regular homemade playdough right out of the pan.

Snack:

Snow Ice Cream

Ingredients:

8 cups snow, or shaved ice

One 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Place snow or shaved ice into a large bowl. Pour condensed milk over and add vanilla. Mix to combine. Serve immediately in bowls.

Snow-cone

Take some clean snow and add a little sno-cone flavoring or juice. Enjoy!