

# Theme\* Winter

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Snow angels, snow balls, snowman
- Build a snow fort in the yard with fresh snow! You could have two forts—facing each other—so the children could divide up and toss snowballs at each other across the divide!
- Musical chairs – tape snowmen or snowflakes to the seats!
- Mitten-mitten-SNOWMAN! (duck-duck-goose)
- Pass the Ice—just like hot potato, pass the ice cube!

## Math Activities:

- Match Game – cut out several large snowflake designs to match numbers 1-10 with that many mini-snowflakes on the matching card.
- Make 10 snowmen and mark that many “buttons” on each, matching the hats. Hats have “4” and “four” written on them and should have 4 buttons on their bellies. See:
- <http://www.theteachersroom.com/snowmen.htm>
- Mitten match—cut matching pairs of mittens out of colored construction paper—one pair per color. Let children clip them together with clothespins... OR write numbers on mittens and let children hang them on a make-shift clothesline with clothespins... matching pairs.

## Science Activities:

- How long does it take to melt a snowball?
- Let children observe popcicles during the freezing process—take them out every half hour to let the children examine them and see how the ice is forming. (These will make great snacks!)
- Which melts more snow—salt water or plain water?  
Make bird feeders to put outside in the snow for birds that have hung around for the winter.
- For more science activities, see:
- <http://www.childfun.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=165>

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Snowman bingo – make bingo cards with snowmen and other winter things like mittens, shovels, snow-laden trees, etc.—to make your bingo game! Mini marshmallows make great markers! (see <http://www.theteachersroom.com/snowmen.htm>)
- Snowball match game—make a snowman out of two circles, but don't put them together. Put rhyming pairs of words (or pictures for younger children) on them, one picture per circle. Let children put them together.
- Fill a large, flat pan with snow and let the children “color” the snow with old markers or squirt bottles filled with kool-aid.
- Sand table: fill the table with plastic snowflakes and “bury” toys underneath for the children to find.

## Snacks:

Snow candy, hot chocolate, pancake snowmen

Cut sandwiches into circles and make a “snowman” on the plate; let kids decorate with small pieces of carrot, celery, raisins, etc., then eat.

Bake two round cake layers and put them end-to-end on a cookie sheet to frost. Use white frosting, then let the children decorate the snowman with candy.

See circle time activities (warm “w” cookies with warm Wassail punch)

## Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Hang paper snowflakes all over the room! Tape them to the windows, too!

I once saw a family child care provider and her children making a giant igloo in the front yard... out of empty gallon milk jugs! The kids could crawl inside and have their own winter “fort”!

## Songs & Fingerplays:

<http://stepbystepcc.com/winter.html>

[http://www.prekfun.com/Preschool\\_Themes/Winter/Winter\\_Songs.htm](http://www.prekfun.com/Preschool_Themes/Winter/Winter_Songs.htm)

## Art:

- Younger children can make snowflakes by sprinkling glitter onto white coffee filters.
- On a piece of dark blue construction paper, let children paint a winter scene with q-tips and tempera paint. Sprinkle with glitter before the paint dries!
- Use liquid white shoe polish – the kind that has the sponge on top – to paint.
- For some really fun activities, see:
- <http://www.childfun.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=165>.
- Cut a bell pepper in half to use for painting! Dip in white paper and press onto black or blue construction paper for a snowflake look!
- Blow up a small balloon; cover with yarn pieces that have been dipped into a thin glue (watered-down glue). When the balloon is fairly covered, sprinkle with glitter. After it dries, pop the balloon and remove your snowball!
- Put globs of thin glue on one end of a piece of construction paper. Let child hold it up and watch the glue run down the paper; cover with glitter and you have some cool icicles!

## Dramatic Play:

Add a few winter caps, mittens, scarves, boots, and plaid flannel shirts to the dramatic play area so children can dress up.

## Books:

Animals in Winter (Davie)

It's Winter (Glaser)

Magic School Bus: Sleeps for the Winter (Moore & Bracken)

The Fourteen Bears in Summer and Winter (Scott)

Winter Babies Wear Layers (Colman & Dion)

Winter is the Warmest Season (Stringer)

Winter: An Alphabet Acrostic (Schnur & Evans)

Tacky and the Winter Games (Lester & Munsinger)

Emma's Magic Winter (Little & Plecas)

Winter on the Farm (Wilder & Wheeler)

Grandmother Winter (Root & Krommes)

How Do You Know It's Winter? (Fowler)

When Winter Comes (Laan & Gaber)

Crafts to Make in Winter (Ross & Enright)

Winter Wheat (Guiberson & Lloyd)

The Twelve Days of Winter (Rose & Armstrong-Ellis)

Where Fish Go in Winter (Koss & Bryant)

Winter (Roca)

The First Day of Winter (Fleming)

A Bed for the Winter (Wallace)

Ready for Winter (Jocelyn)

Winter Moon (George)

Winter Friends (Sams & Stoick)

Penelope (Gutman & Hallensleben)

Winter Eyes (Florian)

Winter Lullaby (Seuling & Newbold)

Winter Wishes (Jordan & Marrucchi)

I Like Winter (Lenski)

Winter Trees (Gerber & Evans)

The Winter Barn (Ripley)

The Winter Solstice (Jackson)

Clifford's First Snow Day (Bridwell)

## Circle Time Activities (include reading time & literacy skills)--Ask:

What do we wear when it's cold outside?

How is snow made?

What do animals do in the winter? Where do fish go in the winter? (See books listed above)

Mittens – How are mittens made? Demonstrate knitting. Count the mittens, sort by color, etc.

Cut-and-tell story: Fold a piece of paper and cut out a snowflake as you tell children a story about winter.

Winter weather – How do you know it's winter? (See book listed above)

Winter Solstice

Snow Day

“W” – how many words can you think of that start with the “w” sound?

Trace the letter “w” in a pan of snow

Make “w” cookies – let children draw a letter “w” in the sugar cookie dough before cookies are

baked. They can fill their “w” with sprinkles or colored sugar.... and have warm Wassail punch with them!

Sing lots of songs and do action rhymes/fingerplays!

Read, read, read!!! Children never tire of good books, and a cold winter's day is the perfect time to read!