

Winter Activities

Snow Art

What you need:

Flat pans such as a large cake pan or cookie sheet

Tempera paint

Paintbrushes

This is a fun activity for children who want to do something very different. Take the children outside to an area that is snow-covered and not used as a walkway. Bring pans and paint outside. Let the children use the paintbrushes to paint the snow in any way they want. Take pictures with a camera and display for families to see or put in an album that the children can take home and share with their families.

Sparkle Snow Paint

Mix together and put in a squeeze bottle the following items:

1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup salt

1/2 cup water

This will become a "doughy mixture." Put this mixture into a squeeze bottle (old ketchup or mustard bottles work well). Have the children squeeze the doughy paint onto black construction paper. Encourage them to make anything snowy, such as snowflakes, snowmen, or a snow scene. Let dough dry thoroughly and it will sparkle. These may also be painted (when dry) and allowed to dry again. This is a great three-dimensional effect for snow.

Dance Like Snowflakes

(Sung to "Are You Sleeping")

Dance like snowflakes, dance like snowflakes

In the air, in the air

Whirling, twirling snowflakes

Whirling, twirling snowflakes

Here and there, here and there

The Wintery Wind

(Sung to "Happy Birthday")

The winter wind blows

The winter wind blows

It gives me the shivers

From my head

to my toes!

Rain Puddle Game

Have each child draw and cut out different sizes of rain puddles from blue construction paper. Have the children stand by their puddle and ask them to follow the directions that you give. Tell them to walk around their puddle, jump over their puddle, stomp through, or tiptoe into each puddle.

Rain Pictures

What you need:

White construction paper

Water-based markers

Rain or water sprayer if the weather won't cooperate

Explain to the children that they are going to make rain pictures. They will first draw a shape or design on their paper and then put it outside in the rain. If a child does not want to put their picture out in the rain that's okay too. Using white construction paper and water-based markers, allow plenty of time for drawing. Place the papers out in the rain for one or two minutes (you could also spritz with a water sprayer if the rain won't cooperate). Bring the papers inside, blot them dry with a paper towel, and leave them to dry thoroughly. The effect is beautiful!

Wind Parade

This is great activity to make inside and take outdoors for play. Give each child a cardboard paper towel tube. Use crayons or markers to decorate and make the tubes colorful. (The children could also paint their tubes ahead of time and let them dry.) Have the children tape several crepe paper streamers (about three feet long) to the tubes. Then let them experiment with moving their streamers in the wind as they parade and move around outside.

Cloud Art

Give each child a piece of blue construction paper. Help the children fold their paper in half. Using white tempera paint, encourage the children to dip a brush in the paint and brush or put a small amount of paint onto one side of their construction paper. Refold and gently rub over the paper.

Let the children open their papers to reveal beautiful, one-of-a-kind cloud shapes.



Sunshine Everywhere

By Jean Warren

Recite the poem below with the children, letting them take turns filling in the blanks.

The morning sun peeked through the trees.

To kiss ___ and the honey bees.

It danced by the ___ and the fields of hay

Until it reached the ___ where it stayed all day.

Sun, sun, don't you run.

Stay with me and have some fun.

Shine on the ___, shine on me.

Shine on the ___, shine on the tree.

Shine on the ___, shine so fair.

Shine on the ___, shine everywhere!