

At-Home Activity

Paint with Ice Cubes

Swirling, icy colors are a feast for your child's senses in this activity celebrating creative expression.



What You Will Need:

Ice-cube trays Paper
Water Tray or cookie sheet
Small craft sticks Tempera paint or food coloring
Plastic wrap or foil

How to Prepare:

Gather the items listed. One or two days before you paint, have your child help you fill ice-cube trays with a mixture of water and tempera paint or water and food coloring, until a desired color is created. Stir each compartment in the ice-cube tray thoroughly. Cover the ice-cube tray with plastic wrap or foil. Insert one craft stick into each compartment of the ice-cube tray by poking a hole in the plastic wrap or foil cover. Place the ice-cube trays in the freezer.

What to Do:

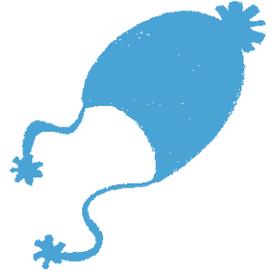
On the day you plan to paint, remove the ice cubes from the ice-cube tray and place them on a tray or cookie sheet. Have sheets of paper ready to paint on. Then invite your child to paint in a fun and new way: with colored ice cubes! While your child paints, talk about how painting with ice cubes is different from other ways your child has painted, such as with brushes or by using his or her fingers.

If your child enjoys this activity, next time try making uncolored ice cubes and having your child dip the ice cubes in tempera paint then use the paint-dipped ice cubes to paint with.

At-Home Activity

Dressing for the Weather

Watch your child fine-tune large- and small-muscle skills in this activity focused on physical development.



What You Will Need:

Clothing items that have buttons, zippers, Velcro® fasteners, snaps, and laces

How to Prepare:

Gather a variety of clothing items with different types of fasteners.

What to Do:

Show your child the various clothing items you have gathered. Talk about dressing for cold weather and how cold-weather clothing such as sweaters, coats, jackets, and boots have different kinds of fasteners. Hold up the clothing items one at a time and ask your child questions about each item, such as "How would you fasten this coat?" or "What are these things on the sweater called?...Yes, they're called snaps." Then have your child put on the clothing items and practice fastening the different kinds of fasteners.

At-Home Activity

Counting Snowballs

An unusual task like this is intriguing to a child, and hones not only math skills, but problem-solving skills as well.



What You Will Need:

Cotton balls
Tweezers
Plastic bottle

How to Prepare:

Gather the items listed.

What to Do:

Show your child the items you have gathered and ask your child what he or she might do with them. For example, your child could use the tweezers to count the cotton balls as he or she drops them into the bottle. How many cotton balls does it take to fill the bottle? Are there enough cotton balls to fill the bottle? Are there too many cotton balls to fit inside the bottle?

After all of the cotton balls are in the bottle, how might your child get them out of the bottle using the tweezers? Watch as your child problem-solves and experiments with ways to remove the cotton balls from the bottle.

At-Home Activity

Writing in Snow

Help your child practice writing, spelling, and a little reading in a language and literacy activity that is also a fun tactile experience.



What You Will Need:

Cookie sheet or plastic tray
White tempera paint or shaving cream

How to Prepare:

Gather the items listed. Spread the paint or shaving cream evenly across the entire cookie sheet or tray.

What to Do:

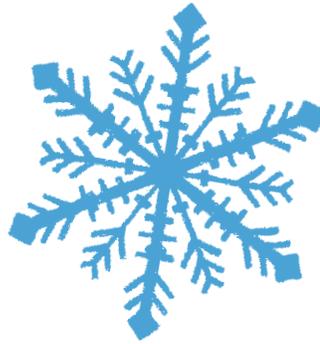
Invite your child to practice writing alphabet letters and drawing pictures in pretend snow. If needed, demonstrate how to make marks in the snow with your finger. Then invite your child to practice making marks such as alphabet letters and shapes in the snow. What pictures can your child draw in the snow? Can your child write his or her name in the snow too?

After filling the cookie sheet or tray with marks and pictures, show your child how to smooth over the top of the paint or shaving cream with your hand to clear, or erase, the marks. Then start writing in snow all over again!

At-Home Activity

Weather Station

Here is a **science** project perfect for winter, when weather provides all sorts of interesting things to measure!



What You Will Need:

Unbreakable outdoor thermometers
*Rain gauge
Paint-mixing stick or wooden stake
Ruler
Permanent marker

How to Prepare:

Gather the items listed. If you live in an area that receives snow during the winter, use the marker and ruler to mark off inches on the paint stick or wooden stake. If you live in an area that receives rain during the winter, make a rain gauge using the instructions below if you are unable to purchase a rain gauge.

What to Do:

Show your child the items you have gathered and tell him or her you will use them to create a weather station outdoors. Place one of the thermometers in your yard. If you live in an area where it rains during the winter, place the rain gauge next to the thermometer. If you live in an area where it snows during the winter, drive the paint stick or wooden stake into the ground near the thermometer. Place both items next to the thermometer if your area receives both rain and snow during the winter.

Talk with your child about the weather-measuring systems in your yard, including the thermometer. Explain that you will use them to check the temperature and the amount of rain and snow that falls throughout the winter. Tell your child that as rain collects in the bottle, you will use the ruler to measure the amount of rain that falls. Tell your child that you will check the marks on the paint stick or stake to measure the amount of snow that falls. Then decide how often you will check these systems to make observations about your weather. If desired, keep track of your observations on a chart or in a journal titled "Our Winter Weather."



***Note:** Rain gauges are available at home and garden stores. Or you can make a rain gauge by reusing a 2-liter plastic bottle. Cut the top off the plastic bottle. Place the cut-off bottle top into the bottom of the bottle to act as a funnel for rain.