

Weather

3+

Snowmen in May

Science skills

Children exercise their imagination and prediction skills.

Materials

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert
Small plastic plates
Tiny black beads

Snow
Toothpicks
Small buttons

What to do

1. Read the story *Snowballs* and discuss what must happen in order for it to snow. Talk about the temperature of the freezing point.
2. On a snowy day, take the children outside. Give each child a small plastic plate.
3. Invite the children to make tiny snowmen on their plates. They might use tiny black beads for eyes, toothpicks for arms and small buttons for decorating the front.
Note: Use caution with young children who may still put small objects in their mouths.
4. Ask the children what might happen if the snowmen are taken indoors. Will they melt? Why?
5. Help the children place their snowmen in a freezer and tell them you will keep them there until spring. Explain how the freezer keeps the snowmen from melting.
6. Remove them from the freezer on a spring day and your class will have snowmen in May.

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More to do

More science: Have a snowman melting party and allow the children to watch the snowmen melt. Discuss why this is happening.

■ Lisa M. Lang, Parkersburg, WV

3+

Temperature Tins

Science skills

This activity encourages temperature awareness and vocabulary development.

Materials

6 small tins with covers
Spray paint or contact paper
Clear caulk
Water (very warm, warm and cold)

Weather

What to do

1. Collect six tins of identical size.
2. Using spray paint or contact paper, decorate them so they look alike. (Adults do this step.)
3. Fill the tins with water. Two tins get very warm water, two get slightly warm water and two get cold water. Put on the covers. (If the tins leak, put some clear caulk on the inside seams and refill.)
4. Invite a small group of children to feel the water in the tins with their fingers and hands. Ask them to describe the temperature of the tins using words like warm, very warm and cold.
5. Ask the children to match the tins by their temperature (for example, to put the cold tins together, the warm tins together, etc.). When they are finished, ask the children how they knew which tins to pair together.

More to do

Storytelling: Read or tell the story of *The Three Bears*. Give the children the three covered tins (filled with very warm, warm and cold water) and pictures of the three bears. Ask them to pretend that the tins hold the bears' porridge and to guess which tin belongs to which bear. After making their guesses, they place a picture on the tin of the bear whose porridge is too hot, too cold and just right.

Debbie Barbuch, Sheboygan, WI

Tissue Square Suncatchers

3+

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Science skills

This activity will stimulate children's interest in the sun.

Materials

Tissue paper, red, yellow and orange
Newspaper
Liquid starch
Wax paper
White crayons

Scissors
Styrofoam tray
Paintbrushes
Black construction paper
Stapler

What to do

1. In advance, cut out lots of 1" (2.5 cm) squares of tissue paper in each color, or let the children help you cut out the squares. Spread newspaper on the work surface and pour starch into Styrofoam tray.
2. Talk about the sun and the heat and light it generates. Tell the children that they are going to make suncatchers.
3. Give each child a 9" x 12" (22 cm x 30 cm) piece of wax paper and two 9" x 12" (22 cm x 30 cm) pieces of black construction paper. Set out a pile of colored tissue paper squares.
4. Have each child paint starch over half of the wax paper and lay on overlapping tissue squares to fill the area, then repeat on other half. Wax paper should be filled to 1" to 2" (2.5 cm to 5 cm) from the edge.