

Activity pack: Preschool Department



Ideas for home learning



Indoor activity

Ice play is a sensory activity for preschool children that involves playing with ice, water and different props. The amazing thing about sensory play is that it opens the door to so many wonderful learning opportunities such as imaginative play, language exploration, fine motor development for pre-writing skills, coordination, social interactions and so much more! Sensory play allows for many unstructured learning experiences for the freedom to explore and discover the world around them.

Sea animals

You will need containers, sea theme plastic animals, a large tube, food colouring and water. Look in your recycling for containers that have different shapes, patterns and sizes to help make the ice world more interesting. You could use yoghurt containers, empty biscuit trays, small and large bowls and ice cube trays.

- Fill your containers with water and freeze
- Once frozen, take out the containers and set them aside for five to ten minutes, allowing the ice to melt a little so it is easier to remove.
- Meanwhile, fill a small jug with water and add a few drops of blue colouring. This will help to create the blue ice affect that is often seen in Antarctica and the Arctic.
- Add the ice, water and plastic animals to a large tray or bowl and let your child play!



Painting with ice

You will need **water, ice cube tray, lollipop stick** and **yellow, blue and green food colouring**.

- Pour your water into your ice cube tray evenly.
- Add just a tiny drop of food colouring to four different cubes and mix well
- Repeat with other colours until all trays are coloured.
- Place a short popsicle stick into beach ice cube mould
- Freeze for about 4 to 6 hours or overnight
- Pull on the sticks to remove from the tray
- Lay old newspaper down on the table before you paint, as food colouring will stain
- Hold the wooden sticks to paint with and let the fun begin!





Make an ice cave

You will need **water, a balloon** and **food colouring**.

- Take a balloon and add about 0.5-1 tsp of food colouring depending on how big a ball you're making or how strong you want the colour.
- Next fill the balloon with water and tie a knot in the end.
- Put the balloon in the freezer and leave for 5-6 hours. Take the balloon out when it is solid

enough on the outside to give a squeeze without breaking and there is still water swishing around inside. You may need to adjust the time depending on how big the filled balloon is, so keep checking.

- Over a sink carefully pull the balloon away. Depending on how thick the ice is you should get a natural break hole in the ice as the weight of the water causes the ice to break. This hole or two provides just enough space to add little toys.

EYFS Links:

The World

- Comments and asks questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world.
- Can talk about some of the things they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects.
- Talks about why things happen and how things work.

Exploring and using media and materials

- Explores colour and how colours can be changed.
- Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things.

Being Imaginative

- Builds stories around toys, e.g. farm animals needing rescue from an armchair 'cliff'.
- Uses available resources to create props to support role-play.

Moving and Handling

- Holds pencil between thumb and two fingers, no longer using whole-hand grasp.
- Holds pencil near point between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control.
- Can copy some letters, e.g. letters from their name.

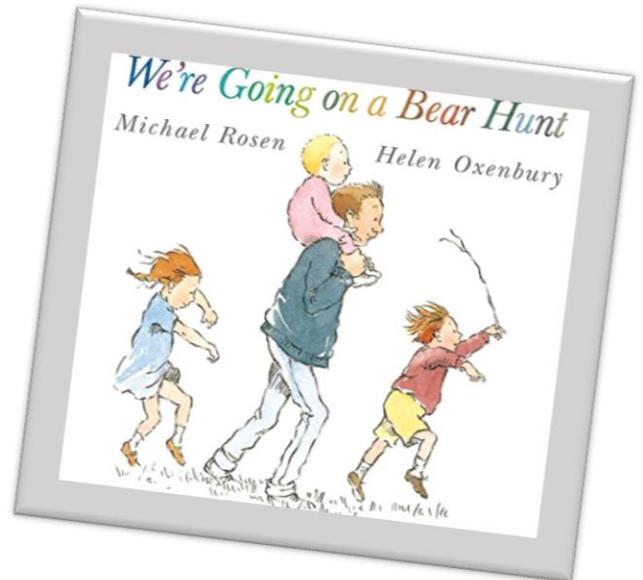
Writing

- Sometimes gives meaning to marks as they draw and paint

Outdoor activity

'We're going on a bear hunt' is one of the children's favourite stories throughout the whole nursery. The repetitive nature of the story means that the children often remember large phrases and they are always very eager to join in! They seem to especially like it when the characters reach the cave and the bear is found, they always get very expressive at this point!

A perfect way to compliment the story is to go on an actual bear hunt! This can easily be done in your garden, or even your home, with a little imagination. To start with, get your child to draw a map which shows each stage of the story, the swishy swashy grass for example, and ends at the bear's cave. At this point, they could enhance the story by adding their own areas to travel through or even change the story slightly, maybe becoming friends with the bear instead! Once completed, go on a bear hunt together, using the map to lead the way. If you are completing this inside, why don't you use the stairs as a forest and then end the story in a cave made from cushions or a blanket, snuggling up together before reading the story.



EYFS Links:

Reading

- Describes main story settings, events and principal characters.
- Joins in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in phrases, rhymes and stories.
- Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.

Moving and Handling

- Moves freely with pleasure
- Mounts stairs, steps and climbing equipment using alternate feet
- Runs skilfully

Being Imaginative

- Uses available resources to create props to support role play.