



SCIENCE OF WATER

Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.
Fred Rogers

THE IOWA
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The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

The Snowy Day takes the reader through Peter's quiet adventure in his snow-covered neighborhood. Keats describes the sights and sounds of walking, building, climbing, and sliding.

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 4 to 6 Years

- On the first page, ask the children to name the first letter of Peter's name when you point to it. Talk about what "first" means.
- If possible, read this book in the winter when it's snowing to make it relevant to your kids.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Act out the story. Put out some winter items for dress up. Use crumpled up paper for snow balls. Use pillows and blankets to create an obstacle course. Encourage your children to pretend they're Peter as he crawls, walks, and climbs over the pillow and blankets.

Kit Supplies: winter snowman hats

- 2) Make footprints like Peter with your toes pointing in and your toes pointing out. This can be done in the snow, in sand, in mud, or even barefoot with the bottoms of feet covered in water.
- 3) Catch snowflakes on black felt and investigate them with a magnifying lens. Then draw pictures of your snowflakes.

Kit Supplies: black felt pieces, magnifying lens, white cardstock paper

- 4) Snowball Throw! Create snowballs out of paper or rolled up white socks and try to hit a target that's safe, but fun and challenging.

Kit Supplies: white tube socks

- 5) Snow Investigation: It has to be snowing or have recently snowed to do this play activity. First ask kids if they know what snow is made of? Let all the kids give their ideas, but don't tell them yet what the answer is. Now go outside and collect snow in a plastic tub and flatten it out in the tub so that you have a level line of snow. Mark the tub with tape where the snow line is and put an "S" on the tape. Set the tub out in your room and watch it melt into water. Mark the level of water in your tub and mark that tape line with a "W". Are the lines the same or different? Which filled the tub more the snow or the water? Ask the children what they think will happen to the water if they now put the plastic tub in the freezer. After the kids make their predictions, put the tub in the freezer. What happened? Mark a line where the ice is in the tub. Ask the kids again what snow is made of. Talk about what form of water takes up the most space in the tub.

Kit Supplies: clear see-through plastic tub, tape



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*Almost all creativity
involves purposeful play.*
Abraham Maslow

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Water is Water by Miranda Paul

*Water is Water depicts the many forms water can take
from rain to fog to snow.*

Ages: 4 to 6 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Before you begin reading, walk through the pictures with kids and discuss what they see. Try to find a form of water on each page (introduce vocabulary i.e. fog) Try to tap into the children's experiences with water like swimming in a lake, playing in a puddle or the snow, or slipping on ice
- Be sure to check out the back of the book which has lots of interesting facts about water.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Melting and Freezing: As water travels through the water cycle, it takes liquid, solid and gaseous forms through heating and cooling processes. You can reduce the scale of the natural cycle so your preschoolers can observe it in action. Let the children fill an ice cube tray with water and put it in the freezer for several hours to see how cooling liquid creates a solid form. Heat the ice cubes in a pot over the stove and watch the steam rise to observe how heat returns the solid to liquid and then gas. If you put a clear lid on the pot as the water heats, the children can observe the condensation on the inside of the lid. Remove the pot from heat and watch the condensation liquefy and fall back into the pot as rain.

Kit Supplies: water cycle poster

- 2) Make Popsicles! Pour your favorite juice into the popsicle molds and freeze.

Kit Supplies: popsicle molds

