

CIRCLE TIME IDEAS

~JANUARY~

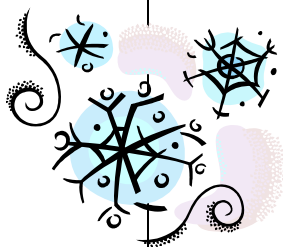


Happy New Year!! Bright Beginnings wishes you and your family health & happiness in 2013!

January 27th is Family Literacy Day! All families are encouraged to participate in literacy activities with the special children in our lives! Learning happens everywhere, and it's easy to make learning part of your daily life. Visit ABC Life Literacy Canada at <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/learning-activity-centre> for more great activities to enjoy as a family!

SONGS & RHYMES

<p>Toot Your Horn - Happy New Year (Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)</p> <p>Toot, toot, toot your horn Toot it loud and clear. Toot it high and toot it low To welcome the New Year.</p> <p>More Verses: Bang, bang, bang your drum; Ring, ring, ring your bell; Clap, clap, clap your hands; Stomp, stomp, stomp your feet.</p>	<p>The Snow is Falling Down (Tune: Farmer in the Dell)</p> <p>The snow is falling down, The snow is falling down. Great big white flakes They do not make a sound</p>
<p>Snowflake Song (Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)</p> <p>I'm a little snowflake, fat and round Falling oh-so-softly to the ground. Once I have finished, you will hear me shout, "Here is a snowball, you better watch out!" (pretend to throw a snowball)</p>	<p>Snowball Rhyme</p> <p>I made myself a snowball Just as perfect as could be. I thought I'd keep it as a pet And let it sleep with me! I gave it some pajamas And a pillow for its head. Then, last night it ran away, But first -it wet the bed!</p>



Winter Play

(Act out each line, indicating the various body part the article belongs on)

The day is cloudy and the wind is bold.
Dress up warmly, you mustn't get cold!
Put on your coat and zip it up tight,
Put on your left boot, put on your right.
Put on your scarf and put on your hat,
Put on your mittens and clap-clap-clap!
Go outside and play and play.
Come in again, and then we'll say-
Take off your coat that was zipped up tight,
Take off your left boot, take off your right.
Take off your scarf, take off your hat,
Take off your mittens, and then take a nap!

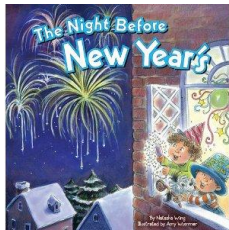
Dance Like Snowflakes

(Tune: Are you Sleeping)

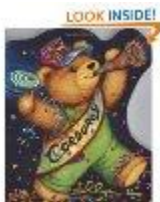
Dance like snowflakes
Dance like snowflakes
In the air
In the air
Whirling, Twirling snowflakes
Whirling, Twirling snowflakes
Here and there
Here and there



BOOK SUGGESTIONS



The Night Before New Year's
By Natasha Wing



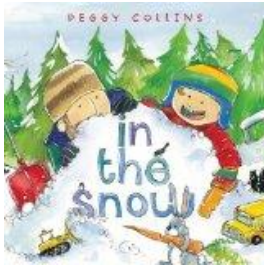
Happy New Year, Corduroy!
By Don Freeman



Bright Baby Winter Touch & Feel
By Roger Priddy



Welcome Winter Board Book
By Jill Ackerman & Nancy Davis



In the Snow
By Peggy Collins

SNACK IDEAS

New Year's Treats

Some ideas to help the children celebrate with food!

- Confetti Cake
- White Grape Punch – to toast
- Bugles – little corn horn shapes

Snowman Soup

Put hot chocolate mix into a bowl, add 2 Hershey kisses and a small candy cane. Add hot water and stir. Then add 'snow balls" (marshmallows)!

Pancake Snowman

Give the children three circle pancakes of different sizes. Let the children form a snowman shape on their plate. Sprinkle them with powdered sugar. Add mini M&M's for buttons, raisins for eyes, string licorice for a mouth, etc.

ART IDEAS

Note: Best practice is to allow children to express their own creativity without using patterns.

New Year's Fireworks

Work on old newspapers. Spread glue on the construction paper in geometric shapes. If the glue is soft enough, you can put a small blob of glue on the paper, and then blow some air through a straw to spread it into interesting shapes. Sprinkle glitter onto the glue. Slide the excess glitter off your picture and back into the glitter container.

Supplies needed :

- Black (or dark colored) construction paper
- Glitter or Glitter Glue
- White Glue
- Old Newspapers
- Drinking Straw (optional)

Touch and Feel Winter Scene

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have them create a winter scene by gluing sprigs of evergreen and pinecones to create "trees", glue cotton balls & use glitter glue to create "snow", cut a piece of wax paper to create a skating pond! Use your imagination to elaborate.

Supplies needed :

- Blue construction paper
- White glue or Clear or Silver Glitter Glue
- Cotton Balls
- Pine Cones
- Sprig of Evergreen
- Wax Paper

Ice Painting

Freeze chunks of food colored ice and let the children paint with it. Have them wear mittens to make it more fun!

Supplies needed :

- Water
- Food coloring
- Freezer
- Glue
- White paper

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Activity/Game #1: Mitten Lacing

This Mitten Lacing craft is a great way to celebrate the winter season. It will also help children practice their fine motor skills! Cut mitten shapes out of different colored construction paper. Use a single hole punch to frame the outer edges of the mitten. Give each child a long piece of string and watch them go to work!

Activity/Game #2: Winter Dress Up

Lay a pile of different clothes for various seasons in a big pile. Split the class into 2 or 3 groups with one designated child per group as the one to be dressed up. The teacher calls out that she has just woken up and tell the children what the weather is like outside your window. The kids have to find the appropriate attire and dress the designated child properly for that type of weather. For example: If you say the ground is covered in snow, they may put winter boots on the child. Talk about the choices each group made. Were they the same or different? Were proper choices made? Discuss with the group.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY!

Discussion #1: Toy Cleaning Procedures

Communicable diseases can spread any place where children interact, particularly in schools and early learning centres. The best way to control the spread of disease is through good health practices. Therefore, it is essential to know what these practices are, so they can use them to help prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.

Following the appropriate steps to clean and sanitize will help eliminate germs within the centre, decreasing the transmission of disease-causing bacteria to the children and staff.

Step 1:

Cleaning – removes dirt

- Clean surface, toy or object with warm water and detergent to remove dirt, before sanitizing. Using friction helps remove most germs underneath the dirt, as well as the dirt itself.
- Rinse area or item well, and dry.

Cleaning Surfaces

- Fill the sink (not a bucket) with fresh hot water and detergent, using paper towels (not cloth rags) to clean surfaces.

Step 2:

Sanitizing – significantly decreases or eliminates germs

- Use 5 ml of bleach to 500 ml of water (1 part bleach to 100 parts water).
- Bleach solution **must** be mixed daily to be effective.
- This solution can be used in a variety of areas that need sanitizing such as tables, countertops, diaper changing area, door knobs or handles, toys, books, puzzles, toilets or potties, telephone (including body fluid spills).
- Label the sanitizer (bottle/container) with name and contents of solution.
- Store solution away from heat and light.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Wear rubber gloves to protect hands from irritation and wash hands immediately after glove removal.
- Spray sanitizer on surface, and let solution sit for at least **30 seconds** before wiping, to be effective. The most effective procedure is to allow the surface to air-dry. When wiping, use a paper towel (not a cloth towel) to dry, and then discard into garbage.

Sanitizing Large Spills (ex: urine, stool, vomit, blood)

- Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from blood and body fluids. If blood is present in the spill, you must wear disposable gloves.
- Clean the majority of the spill with paper towels, and discard into covered, plastic-lined garbage.
- Clean contaminated area with water and a detergent, using disposable paper towels. Use additional paper towels to rinse, and then another to dry the area.
- Sanitize the area, using freshly made bleach solution.
- Discard rubber gloves into covered, plastic-lined garbage (if household rubber gloves were used, they must be rinsed in a sanitizing solution when finished).
- If a mop was used, rinse in a sanitizing solution and air-dry (mop head up). If a mop was used for a blood spill, use a disposable mop and discard into the garbage after or remove the mop head and wash in hot water and detergent immediately after.
- Change staff's or child's clothes if soiled with blood or body fluids. Place child's clothes in a plastic bag and send home with their parents. Do not rinse out the clothes at the centre.

BEST PRACTICE:

Equipment and materials selected for parent child programs should be durable and easy to clean, safe for all ages and stages of children in attendance.

Equipment must be regularly cleaned and inspected for damage. Infant equipment should be sanitized after use. Damaged or incomplete items should be discarded to prevent further use.

Small toys, books, puzzles, etc. that enter a child's mouth should be cleaned immediately after entering a child's mouth. Otherwise, twice a week in the infant/toddler room.

Dress-up clothes, stuffed toys should be machine washed weekly (more often when visibly soiled)

Program space should be vacuumed daily, when children are not present. Clean infant area carpets monthly, and preschool and school-age every 3 months (more often if soiled).

This information was provided to you by the Manitoba Childcare Association. For further information on infection control guidelines, please review the following document; Infection Control Guidelines for Early Learning and Child Care at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/pubs/healthypractices/infection-control.pdf>.