A CHUBBY LITTLE SNOWMAN
(fingerplay)

A chubby little snowman
(Hold your arms to make a fat belly)
Had a carrot for a nose.
(Point your forefinger out from your nose)
Along came a bunny.
(Make a bunny with your fingers. Make it hop.)
And what do you suppose?
(Turn palms upward and shrug in disbelief.)
That hungry little bunny
(Rub your tummy.)
Looking for his lunch.
(Shade your eyes and look into the distance.)
Ate that snowman’s nose.
(Make a bunny with one hand and a carrot with the other.)
Nibble, nibble CRUNCH!
(Make the bunny eat the carrot with two small bites and one big bite.)
OUTDOOR WINTER ORNAMENTS

- Take children for an outdoor walk.
- Have them gather an assortment of evergreen branches, berries, small pinecones, twigs and dried flowers in pie or cake pans.

To make the ornaments:
- Fill each pan with several inches of water.
- Next, lay twine or yarn around the inside edges of the pan to create a frame. Leave 8 to 10 inches of extra twine at the top from both ends.
- Have children arrange their collected items in a pleasing pattern.
- Freeze the pan outdoors or in a freezer.
- When frozen, remove the ice ornaments from the pan and hang outdoors!

WINTER CLOTHING

Gather an assortment of winter clothing (hats, scarves, mittens, boots, sweaters, jackets).

- Choose one child to be the “snowman” to dress.
- Put scarf, mittens, hat, etc. onto the child and have other children close their eyes.
- Change one item of clothing (put on a different hat) or take away a piece of clothing.
- Ask the children to uncover their eyes and guess what is different about the snowman.
- Children can take turns being the “snowman”.

![Winter Ornament Image]
CREATE AN INDOOR ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT!

- Use a large transparent plastic storage container, wading pool or the bathtub to create a unique indoor winter environment.
- Fill with water enough to float styrofoam “icebergs” in the container or tub.
- Children can play with arctic animals in the water and on the “icebergs.”
- Read about polar bears, walruses and other arctic animals. (Try Way Up in the Arctic by Jennifer Ward)
- Add some ice cubes to the water to add to the chilly fun, and be sure to have plenty of towels available to clean up spills!

SNOWFLAKES

TORTILLA SNOWFLAKES*

Flour tortilla Cinnamon sugar Butter or oil Clean scissors

1. Children can help you fold tortillas in half, then in half again.
2. Help children cut small shapes out with scissors as you would for making paper snowflakes.
3. Open up and sauté tortillas in oil or butter.
4. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.

PAPER SNOWFLAKES

1. Fold paper in half, then in half again.
2. Let children experiment with making cuts in the folded paper.
3. Have them guess what the paper will look like before they open them up.
4. These homemade “snowflakes” can be used to decorate windows and walls.

* All cooking projects require adult supervision.
“SKATER’S WALTZ”

Play the “Skater’s Waltz” by Waldteufel or other classical music for the following activities.

- Child-size feet can use two paper plates, two sheets of wax paper or two empty tissue boxes as imaginary skates. Skate inside to the music.

- Do the “freeze” dance. Have children dance along to the music. Stop and start the music. When the music stops, children must “freeze” in their places until the music begins again.

- Have children simply listen to and enjoy classical music. What instruments do they hear? How does the music make them feel?

![Image of child skating]

SPARKLE DOUGH

Materials:
- salt
- flour
- water
- food coloring or tempera paint
- large bowl for mixing
- heavy paper, cardboard or paper plates
- small cups or bowls

Directions:
1. Mix salt, flour and water together in equal parts in a bowl. (1/2 cup of each ingredient makes 1 cup of each color)
2. Divide dough into several small cups or bowls—one for each color. (Caregivers may want to start with 3 colors)
4. Use spoons or brushes to spread dough onto paper to make art. The sparkle dough will dry “sparkly” as the salt crystals come to the surface.

Variation: Put colored dough into squeezable container with large opening like ketchup or dish soap bottles.
ICE COLD EXPERIMENTS

Introduce children to ice. Give them each several ice cubes and the opportunity to explore them however they choose. What kinds of things can they do with their ice cubes? Can they hold them? Can they eat them? Can they taste them? Can they break them? What happens to the ice cube if they put it in the shade? In the sun? What happens if children put one ice cube in a cup and hold another in their hand? Will they both melt? What happens to an ice cube if it is left outside for one minute? For five minutes? Does an ice cube in cold water melt as fast as an ice cube in warm water?

Ice Cube Painting. Fill ice cube trays with water colored with liquid paint, food colors or tempera paint. Put a toothpick or popsicle stick into each section of the tray and put the tray into the freezer. When the water has frozen, children can try painting with colorful ice cubes.

ICE CUBE POPSICLES

Children can help prepare this “cool” snack. Pour juice into ice cube trays and freeze. For popsicles on a stick, put craft sticks or toothpicks into each section of the tray before freezing.
Bringing books to life with these simple ideas that highlight early literacy skills.

**Far North in the Arctic** by Cory Hansen

**Presentation Notes:** This chilly take on the classic song “Over in the Meadow” makes a terrific introduction to Arctic animals. Talk to the children about less familiar animals like a beluga and a ptarmigan. For more information, refer to the notes in the back of the book. Have children predict how many babies will be on each page and have them say the rhyming number in the second line. To make it even more interactive, ask children to count the babies with you.

**Skills:** Phonological Awareness, Vocabulary, Print Motivation

**The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats

**Presentation Notes:** This award winning classic captures the joy of rediscovering a new world created after it has snowed. Point to the sound words like “crunch” and invite children to say these words along with you. Take a walk outside and try some of the activities that Peter does. You might even put a snowball in your pocket!

**Skills Featured:** Print Awareness

**Froggy Gets Dressed** by Jonathan London

**Presentation Notes:** Fresh snow has fallen and Froggy wants to go out and play. As he gets dressed, he forgets a few key steps along the way. Children are certain to giggle at Froggy's forgetfulness, especially when he misses his underwear! Use plenty of expression, make the sounds and have children name the pieces of clothing with you.

**Skills:** Print Motivation, Vocabulary

**Snowmen at Night** by Caralyn Buehner

**Presentation Notes:** A young boy discovers that the perfect snowman he made the day before has become a bit lopsided overnight. The boy imagines what could have happened to cause this. See if the children notice the rhyming text by leaving off words for them to fill in at the end of the sentence. Ask children to find the word that looks like it’s “sledding.”

**Skills:** Print Awareness, Phonological Awareness
**Winter Lullaby**  By Barbara Seuling

**Presentation Notes:** As winter arrives, different animals find different kinds of shelter. Invite children to think about the questions posed throughout the text and the rhyming responses. After reading, encourage children to think of other animals that might also need shelter from the cold. Ask for suggestions about where those animals might go.

**Skills:** Narrative, Phonological Awareness

**The Mitten** by Jan Brett

**Presentation Notes:** In this Ukranian folktale, a lost mitten becomes a shelter for woodland creatures. Ask the children to predict what will happen next throughout the story. Point out the illustrations on the sides of each page. These tell a separate story of what the boy is doing all day and offer clues about which animal is coming next. Show the cover and point out that the author and illustrator is Jan Brett. To learn more about Jan Brett and her characters, visit her website [www.janbrett.com](http://www.janbrett.com).

**Skills:** Narrative, Print Awareness

---

**More Great Books!**

**In the Snow: Who’s Been There?** by Lindsay Barrett George

**Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear?** by Bill Martin and Eric Carle

**Angelina Ice Skates** by Katharine Holabird

**The Jacket I Wear in the Snow** by Shirley Neitzel

**Snowballs** by Lois Ehlert

**Way Up in the Arctic** by Jennifer Ward