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**Topic Plan Ideas** - **Winter**

This pack contains some activity ideas for the Winter topic as well as some blank forms for you to note down your own ideas.

Staring at a blank page when planning can be difficult so we hope that even if you don’t end up using our exact suggestions, they will be a spark of inspiration for your own great ideas when planning for your children.

(The different sheets are outlined below so you can decide which sheets you need to print).

Ideas sheet (Colour) – p2

Ideas sheet (BW) – p3

Blank ideas headings sheet (Colour) – p4

Blank ideas headings sheet (BW) – p5

Completely blank ideas sheet (BW) – p6

Blank Prime Areas of Learning sheet (Colour) – p7

Blank Prime Areas of Learning sheet (BW) – p8

Blank Prime & Specific Areas of Learning sheet (Colour) – p9

Blank Prime & Specific Areas of Learning sheet (BW) – p10

We hope this helps!

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**Winter Ideas**

Fine Motor

Number/Counting

* Find numbers hidden in instant snow powder.
* Make and count snowballs using white playdough.
* Make a carboard tube penguin.
* Feed the squirrel pencil control sheets (squirrel to nuts).
* Scissor control practice – cutting paper snowflakes.

Tuff Trays

Messy Play

* Shaving foam in trays. Encourage writing letters / drawing pictures in the ‘snow’
* Cold cooked rice for children to feed.
* Winter Wonderland – soft white fabrics/cotton wool/rice. Use small world toys.
* Ice blocks of different sizes on the tray. Droppers with food colouring for children to add to ice.

Shape/Pattern/Symmetry

* Make paper snowflakes – what shapes can we cut?
* Match footprint in the snow to the animal.
* Match and make pairs of gloves.

Personal Opinions & Feelings

Measures

* Finding or drawing icicles. Which ones are the longest/shortest? Can we measure with blocks?
* Time: how long does it take for a small piece of ice to melt?
* Discussing the signs of winter – what is your favourite part of winter?
* Winter pictogram of favourites.

Health & Self-Care

Nurturing Relationships

* Play hibernation bingo game together.
* What animals live around us in our environment? What do they do in the winter? Can we help them?
* Discussing clothing. What different clothes do we need in winter? Why do we need to keep warm?
* Draw the right winter clothes on a body outline.

Gross Motor

* Move like winter themed items e.g. snowflake drifting to the ground, hop like a robin.
* Writing large letters / numbers in the snow (real or pretend).

Investigation

Role-Play

* Animal homes – den building – link to hibernation.
* Arctic/Antarctica Outdoor Role Play Area – winter clothes.
* Winter wonderland.
* Make a tray of instant snow and investigate footprint patterns e.g. small world toy animals, fairy vs giant.
* Observe a snowflake through a magnifier.

Mark making

* Observational drawing of winter items.
* Writing lists of winter clothes/foods/animals.

Creativity/Art/Design

* Make and decorate a bird box; real/junk modelled/ or mark making in paper.
* Winter ice collage – place natural items with water in a dish and freeze.

Relevant Books

Phonics/High Freq. Words

* High frequency words buried in cotton wool/fake snow for the children to find a read.
* Phonic sounds written on each drawn glove of a pair. Children to take one glove and then try to find their matching partner.
* First Snow – Kim Lewis
* The Gruffalo’s Child – Julia Donaldson
* The Snowman – Raymond Briggs

Songs/Music/Poems

Alphabet

* Freeze letter into ice for the children to melt/discover.
* Letters of the alphabet cut out of colourful card. Children to finger paint snowflakes on them.
* Frosty the Snowman
* Jingle Bells
* Make winter sounds using body percussion or instruments e.g. triangle = dripping melting icicle.

Mindfulness

* Think about your senses on a winter walk.
* Mindful breathing – can you see your breath?
* Watch the clouds.

Colours

Science Experiments

* Observe ice in the outdoors e.g. the difference in ice melting indoors vs outdoors – can we speed it up?
* Ice painting using specific colours we are learning. Paint the blocks of ice.
* Winter colours walk.
* Paint pinecones.

Optional Home Learning

Vocab & Communication

* Talking with a friend about their winter weekend.
* Discussing the signs of winter.
* Winter themed word cards/mat with pictures.
* Looking for and drawing any winter birds that might visit the area near the child’s home.
* Go on a winter walk with family – take photos or draw pictures to record the event.

Food

* Make gingerbread people.
* What would we use in a warming winter soup?
* Chopping vegetables/counting vegetable pieces.

A group of white flowers

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA black and white image of a black and white flower

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA black and white image of a black and white flower

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Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

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