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# Preschool Theme Kits WINTER



FOR YOU: a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

## BOX CONTENTS

### BOOKS

**In the Rain with Baby Duck**

*Judy Hest*

**Frederick**

*Leo Lionni*

**A Hat for Minerva Louise**

*Janet Stoeke*

**The Snowy Day**

*Ezra Jack Keats*

**Animals in Winter**

*Henrietta Bancroft*

**Froggy Gets Dressed (Book with CD)**

*Jonathan London*

**We Play on a Rainy Day**

*Angela Medearis*

**Time to Sleep**

*Denise Fleming*

**The Itsy Bitsy Spider**

*Rosemary Wells*

### DVD

**The Snowy Day**

### TOY

**Five Little Snowmen and Eensy Weensy Spider felt pieces**

### ADULT RESOURCES

**Celebrate! An Anti-Bias Guide to Enjoying Holidays**

*Julie Bisson*

### ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS  
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the *Winter* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities and finger plays as well as teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

## *Related Activities*

### *-Fun and Games-*

#### SIGNS OF WINTER

After reading **Animals in Winter** or **Time to Sleep**, talk about how the children know that it is wintertime (bare trees, no flowers, colder weather, animals have winter coats, people have winter coats, etc.). They may also mention different winter holidays or customs.

*Extensions:* Make a winter mural, including the signs they have mentioned and shown in the books. Go for a winter walk. Bundle up warm, taking umbrellas if needed (they love umbrellas!) and walk in the neighborhood close to your daycare, noticing signs of winter.

#### SNOWFLAKE DANCING \*

First precut some snowflakes, by folding paper twice and cutting out shapes along the folded edges. You can also use white crepe paper streamers. Give each child a snowflake or streamer, turn on some music, and have the children dance. They can dance fast to imitate wind blowing, or slow for gently falling snow or rain, depending on the music.



#### MAKE SNOW \*\*

We don't get that much snow, so make your own! Cover a work surface with a plastic tarp or tablecloth to minimize the mess.

Mix 2 cups cornstarch with 1 1/2 cups water in a large bowl. You may need to add a few more drops of water. This mixture has an interesting consistency to work with. Let the children experiment, using their hands, paper cups, and plastic spoons.

#### SPARKLING SNOWFLAKES \*\*

Make a solution of half Epsom salts and half water. Let the children draw a winter picture with crayons or markers and then "paint" their pictures with the Epsom salt solution.

*Alternative:* Make a "snow" scene by painting the Epsom salt mixture on old greeting cards.

#### SNOW STATUES

Tell the children to become snow statues by "freezing" in place. When the music starts, the children become alive and an adult demonstrates and tells the children to act out different movements, like making snowballs, shoveling snow, rolling balls for snowmen, ice skating, etc. Stop the music and let them "freeze" again. Take turns calling out actions.

*\*Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

*\*\*Used with permission from King County Library System.*

## FIVE LITTLE SNOWMEN

This is a fingerplay. Also use it with the flannel snowmen included in this kit.

Five little snowmen standing in a row,  
Five little snowmen all made of snow.  
*Hold up five fingers.*

Out came the sun and stayed all day.  
*Make circle over head.*

One little snowman melted away.  
*Put one finger down, or take away one snowman.*

Four little snowmen, etc.  
Three little snowmen, etc.

## EENSY WEENSY SPIDER

This is a fingerplay. Also use it with the flannel pieces included in this kit.

The eensy weensy spider  
Went up the water spout.  
*Crawl fingers upward, thumb and forefinger alternating, in front of body. Or use all fingers.*

Down came the rain and  
*Flutter fingers down for rain*  
Washed the spider out!  
*Swish hands back and forth.*

Out came the sun and dried up  
all the rain,  
*Arms make circle over head.*  
And the eensy weensy spider  
Went up the spout again.  
*Up those fingers go again.*

## CELEBRATE! AN ANTI-BIAS GUIDE TO ENJOYING HOLIDAYS

There are so many holidays in the winter time! Your children's families celebrate a diversity of holidays. Find out about some of these Las Posadas, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Japanese New Year, Korean New Year, Hindu New Year (in April), Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Hana Matsuri Flower Festival (in April), Easter, and Ramadan are some of them!

Then ask your children's caregivers which ones they celebrate and how. You can observe some of them in a variety of ways, as simply as sharing a book to more elaborate observances like decorations, food and skits.

Winter Theme Kit

**Questions or Suggestions:**  
Call the Youth Services Dept.  
at (360 384-3150

## -Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

### WIND TRICKS

Traditional

The wind is full of tricks today.  
It blew my daddy's hat away.  
It chased our paper down the street  
It almost blew us off our feet!  
It makes the trees and bushes dance.  
Just listen to it howl and prance!

*Make sweeping motion with hand  
Pretend to sweep hat off head  
One hand chases other around  
Jump up and down  
Raise arms and dance  
Cup hand to ear.*

### IT'S RAINING ON THE SIDEWALK\*\*

To tune of Did You Ever See a Lassie

It's raining on the sidewalk, the  
sidewalk, the sidewalk.  
It's raining on the sidewalk,  
'Cause it's a rainy day.  
*Make the sound rain would make on that thing:*  
With a pitter, patter, pitter patter  
Pitter patter.  
It's raining on the sidewalk  
'Cause it's a rainy day.  
*Children choose other things for the rain to fall on, and then depending on what the rain is falling on, make the sound of raindrops louder or softer.*



### YOU CAN BE A SNOWMAN

Suit actions to words.

Now I am a snowman  
Standing on the lawn.  
I melt and melt and melt  
And pretty soon I'm gone!

### THE SNOW FELL SOFTLY

The snow fell softly all the night  
And made a blanket soft and white.  
It covered houses, trees and ground,  
But never made a single sound.



### RAIN

Rain on the green grass,  
*Hands flutter down to ground*  
Rain on the tree,  
*Hands "rain" way up high*  
Rain on the rooftop,  
*Hands make peak over head*  
But not on me.  
*Pretend to put up and hold umbrella.*

### DRESSING FOR WINTER\*\*

Suit actions to words

Let's put on our mittens  
And button up our coats.  
Wrap a scarf snugly  
Around our throats.  
Pull on our boots,  
Fasten the straps.  
And pull on tightly  
Our warm winter caps.  
Then open the door.  
And out we go,  
Into the soft and feathery snow.

*Flutter fingers downward  
Spread out a "blanket"  
Hands make pointed roof over head  
Finger to lips- shhh.*

### How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.