

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Snow stories and winter fun

During an arctic weather spell, why not use the conditions to support play and learning?

Learning aims

- To create exciting, fun ways to tell stories
- To use the weather conditions and props to support play and learning.

Resources

- Snow
- Food colouring
- Storybook 'The Hungry Caterpillar'
- Real fruit from the story or pictures of the fruit/foods
- A leaf
- Sticks and stones for facial features of the caterpillar
- A camera to record the story fun.



Activity Outline

Snow stories

- Read the 'The Hungry Caterpillar' story to the children
- Once you have finished, go back and look at the caterpillar and talk about how he looks and his features
- Take the children outside and demonstrate how you can roll small snowballs to create a caterpillar shape, then ask the children to do the same
- If you wish you can roll the snowballs in food colouring (green and red) to create the hungry caterpillar colours and use sticks for the caterpillar feelers and stones for the eyes
- Now, find a leaf and make a smaller snow ball to create the caterpillar egg
- To support the story, you can use real fruit or pictures of the food the caterpillar ate and a butterfly
- Then sit around the finished caterpillar and re-tell the story using the food props
- Encourage the children to have a go at telling the story or making other snow sculptures of food he might like to try.

Snow fort

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- Use buckets and loaf tins to create blocks that can be stacked up to make a snow fort
- Use sandcastle buckets to create the shape at the top of the fort walls.

Frozen bubbles

- You can use shop-bought bubbles or make your own solution
- On a freezing cold day, encourage the children to blow bubbles
- Hold the bubble on the wand and watch whilst the bubble freezes!

Extending the activity

Homemade bird feeders

- For the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch (January each year), why not make some homemade bird feeders to attract garden birds to your nursery?
- Use coconut shells, a hollowed-out orange or pieces of string and fill them up - you can thread them with bird seeds, fruit and fat to feed the birds visiting your outdoor space.
- Remember - Peanuts and fat balls are regularly sold in nylon mesh bags.
 - Never put out any food in mesh bags, these may trap birds' feet and even cause broken or torn off feet and legs, and birds with barbed tongues, e.g. woodpeckers, can become trapped by their beaks.