

**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.**

## Activity: White winter sensory tuff tray

This activity inspires you to create an inviting white winter sensory tray for children to delight in exploring different textures, scents and sounds.

### Learning aims

- Explore different textures, scents and sounds
- Be creative using a range of materials
- Develop and use descriptive vocabulary.



### Resources

- Large tuff tray or container
- Artificial snow (equal quantities of cornflour and bicarbonate of soda, add white conditioner gradually until a good consistency)
- Dry white rice
- Artificial snow blanket (or other white material)
- Cotton wool roll and balls
- White playdough (mix with silver biodegradable glitter and peppermint essence)
- Craft matchsticks
- A range of white and silver resources that offer a range of texture, smells and sounds. Examples include:
  - Frozen reusable ice cubes
  - White pebbles
  - Pine cones with white scale tips
  - White/silver bells
  - White/silver string beads
  - White/silver snowflakes
  - White/silver tinsel
  - Tinfoil
  - Small metal dishes.
- Artificial tea lights.

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## Activity outline

1. Start by covering your tray/container with a blanket of snow using artificial snow, dry white rice, white material and cotton wool roll
2. Add the resources in an inviting manner, leaving some in containers at the side for children to explore and add to the tray
3. Once your white winter tray is prepared, introduce it to the children and encourage them to explore the resources. Model how to make marks in the play dough using the match sticks or perhaps using them as a frame to make something such as a snowman
4. Use thought provoking questions to engage children in exploration and discussion. For example, "what does it feel like/smell like?" "what can you hear?" and expand children's vocabulary by introducing words such as white, silver, shiny, glisten, twinkle, jingle, crunchy, peppermint, etc.
5. Encourage children to share their experiences of winter – some of the items in the tuff tray may spark conversations
6. Observe children independently exploring the resources and use your observations to plan further experiences.

## Extension ideas

- Share books such as *The Snowman* and *The Snowman and the Snow Dog* by Raymond Briggs adding characters and props to invite small world play.