

Frozen Nature Finds

Collect pinecones, leaves, or small twigs and freeze them in a shallow container of water. Once frozen, let your toddler explore the icy nature treasures by touching and observing them.

What you need:

- A shallow plastic container
- Water
- Freezer
- Nature items like small pinecones, leaves, twigs or small rocks
- A spoon, tongs or a small toy hammer (for breaking ice)
- Towels or a mat to contain the mess



What to do:

1. Head outside to collect nature items like pinecones, leaves, twigs or small rocks. You can also collect seeds or flowers, depending on what's available in your area. Make sure the items are small enough to fit into your container.
2. Pour water over the nature items in your container until they're fully submerged. Make sure there's enough water to cover the items, but not so much that it overflows the container.
3. Carefully place the container in the freezer and leave it for several hours or overnight until the water has frozen solid. (Or if it's cold enough outside, leave outside overnight)
4. Once frozen, place the frozen block of nature finds on a towel or mat to catch any melting water.
5. Always supervise your toddler during this activity to make sure they're handling items safely.
6. Give your toddler spoons, tongs or a small toy hammer to gently chip away at the ice to discover the hidden items.
7. Talk about the nature finds with your toddler: As your toddler uncovers each item, you can discuss the textures, shapes and what the items are. For example, "look this is a pinecone! It's so spiky!"
8. Optional – warm water play: you can also provide a small bowl of warm water for your toddler to pour over the ice to speed up the melting process and enhance the sensory experience.

Activity extension: you can add food colouring to the water for a more colourful experience

weewatch.com

