

Snow Science Experiment

This hands-on science activity encourages children to explore the properties of snow and ice while connecting to healthy winter habits. Through observation and experimentation, children learn about melting, temperature, and water while exploring curiosity, patience, and problem-solving. The activity also provides a natural way to discuss staying warm, hydrating, and caring for their bodies during cold winter months.

What you need:

- Small clear cups or containers / jars with lids
- Fresh snow (or crushed ice if snow isn't available)
- Food colouring (optional, for visual effect)
- Warm water
- Spoons or small scoops
- Optional: salt, sand, or small natural items like pine needles



What to do:

1. Take children outside to scoop fresh snow into cups or containers.
2. Encourage children to briefly touch the snow, ice or slush with their mittens off
3. Discuss the sensations they feel, for example: cold, wet, soft or hard. Relate to healthy habits like why wearing mittens is important for keeping our hands dry and warm.
4. Experiment with melting:
 - In one container, pour a small amount of warm water onto the snow.
 - Leave another container untouched to melt naturally
 - Optional: add salt or sand to see how it changes melting.
 - Optional: add small items like pine needles and small stones. Observe how the snow interacts with these natural materials as it melts. Once the snow is gone what happened to the items? Did anything float? What is at the bottom of the container now.
 - Optional: add a few drops of food colouring to see how the colour spreads as snow melts.
5. Ask questions like "what happened when we added the warm water to the snow?" Encourage children to describe changes they are observing.

Activity extension: Place the coloured water from the ice or snow in small containers to "paint" outdoor snow surfaces.

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