

## Preschool Curriculum - Season of Winter - January 2-6, 2006

**UNIT OBJECTIVES: To Review the four seasons, To present the unique qualities of the winter season, To develop an understanding of weather, activities and animals in winter**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Group Time (Concepts)</b>	<p><b>Season of Winter-</b>(Depending on the particular group you can ask the children about the four seasons and winter in particular and write down the information for all to see) Winter is the coldest of the four seasons. After Winter comes the season Spring when flowers bloom, then summer when the weather is usually very hot, and Fall or Autumn when the leaves on the trees turn colors and fall to the ground. In Winter the weather is cold, and in some places like here there is snow. The trees have no leaves, and animals such as bears and woodchucks hibernate. What kinds of things do we do this time of the year?? Play in the snow (sledding, skiing, skating, etc or indoor swimming &amp; basketball or with toys and games) Show a picture illustrating the four seasons and ask the children to help you differentiate them from each other.</p> <p>Compare two seasons with the Venn Diagram included</p>	<p><b>Winter Weather-</b>In winter, our part of the Earth is tipped away from the sun (demonstrate using globe and flashlight that the earth is tipped away from the sun) so we have cold weather. (use this information as you see fit for your group of children) Sometimes it sleet or snows. Some winter days are cold and others are colder. We know how cold it is by using thermometers. Does anyone know what a <u>thermometer</u> is? It is an instrument used to measure the temperature (how hot or cold ) something is . Inside the thermometer (show one) there is a liquid called <u>mercury</u>. There are <u>numbered marks (degrees)</u> on it and when it is hot the mercury <u>rises</u> and when it is cold the mercury <u>falls</u>. (Canaries)Send home a thermometer temperature sheet with a different child each day and have them share the sheet with you and the group (with your assistance) As a class you can keep a daily log of outside temperatures and at the end of the month you can discuss which day was the coldest and warmest. As a class start a classroom weather chart and do it daily. Children can take turns drawing in the symbols.</p>	<p><b>Eskimos-</b>For thousands of years, <u>Eskimos</u> have been living in the <u>Arctic</u> regions of the earth (show on globe). There the winters are very long and cold. (show picture of Eskimo face on the Eskimo Picture sheet. Most of the year there is ice and snow. Today some Eskimos live like we do, but other s live in the traditional style of <u>dwelling (house)</u> which is called an <u>igloo</u>. An igloo is made from blocks (hold up a block wrapped in white paper) cut from hard snow. They use animal skin and fur to make clothes, boots out of seal skin and the soles from walrus. They are skilled hunters who hunt, fish, caribou, seal, whales and walrus. They hunt polar bears all year long. The <u>kayak</u> is a one-man canoe that is covered in seal skin. They make a hole in the ice and sit there and fish. This is called <u>ice fishing</u>. (use as much or as little of this information as your group of children will determine by their interest) Review by pointing to objects on sheet and asking for volunteers to name them</p>	<p><b>Penguins-</b>Penguins are birds that swim instead of fly. They use their wings like flippers underwater. Most penguins live in Antarctica and parts of nearby countries. They like to live where it is icy cold. They spend most of their time in the water looking for food. Some can even stay under water for an hour without breathing. The penguins thick, oily feathers are warm and waterproof. There are eighteen different kinds of penguins. The blue fairy penguin is only 1 foot tall while the emperor is 4 feet tall. Once a year most kinds of penguins make nests and lay their eggs. Instead of making a nest, the male emperor penguin holds an egg on its feet to keep it warm until it hatches. Penguins eat fish. When the chicks first hatch the adult chews up the food for him.. Penguins live in large groups called rookeries. Sometimes 1 million birds live in a rookery. On land penguins travel by waddling or hopping on their short legs. When they are in a hurry they slide on their bellies.</p>	<p><b>Animals &amp; Birds in Winter</b> Before Winter comes, animals <u>grow thicker fur</u> to <u>prepare</u> for the cold. Some animals such as the bear, the raccoon and the woodchuck <u>hibernate</u> (sleep)during the winter. Others like the squirrel, the beaver and the fox do not hibernate. They store food in fall to last throughout the winter. Rabbits and deer do not hibernate or store food. They must spend the winter searching for food. (looking) On a piece of chart paper on a board, make two columns. Animals that hibernate and animals that do not hibernate. Give the children some magazines (natl. geographic or other) for them to cut out pictures of animals and glue them or tape them onto the chart. If no pictures then just write the names of animals under each heading as the children come up with different animals. Some birds stay up here in the North, while other birds fly south for the winter</p>
<b>Fingerplay Songs</b>	Finger play-"Tree in Winter" Song-"A Song of Winter"	Song-"A Song of Winter"	Finger play "Two little Eskimos"	"Penguin Family", "Counting Penguins", "Marching Penguin"	Finger play "Five Little Birds" Song-"Little Bunny Foo-Foo- show book while you sing it
<b>Story Time</b>	"When Winter Comes" by Russel Freedman "The Great Snowball Contest" by William McCay "Winter is here" by Jane Belk Moncure "A Book of Seasons" by Alice and Martin Provensen <i>or any other related book(s) that you can find</i>	"Old Turtle's Winter Games" by Leonard Kessler "First Snow" by Emily Arnold McCully <i>or any other related book(s) that you can find</i>	"The Little Igloo" by Lorraine and Jerrold Beim "on mother's lap" by Ann Herbert Scott "Mama, do you love me?" by Barbara Joose <i>or any other related book(s) that you can find</i>	"10 things I know about Penguins" written by Wendy Wax and Della Rowland	"Animals in Winter" by Henrietta Bancroft (Right before you go outside, have children bring their jackets nearby then read the story and act it out.) "Foot prints in the snow" (in packet)-flannel activity

<p><b>Craft Activities</b></p>	<p>-Make white collage winter scenes by using white tissue, cotton swabs, Styrofoam, packing peanuts, and white yarn on gray construction paper (talk about the different shades of white)          -Straw blowing winter tree (white construction paper, a few drops of black paint on the bottom and the child blows in upward movement through straw to make a bare trunk and branches. When dry glue bits of silver glitter on trunk and branches to represent snow.)  <i>-or make a class winter scene on the wall using white and blue butcher paper and brown construction paper for bare trees. Add to it as you make projects that can be put on the winter scene.</i></p>	<p>-Paint with colored ice cubes. Put paint in ice cube trays and freeze it overnight. Then paint with them for a watery colorful effect. You could even mix two colors of paint together and see how they come out when you paint with them.          -Make a classroom thermometer or individual thermometers          -Continue with the winter scenes from yesterday-Talk about the color <b>white</b> and ask children to point out at least one thing that is white in the classroom. You could write their names and answers down on a list it for all to see.</p>	<p>-Make igloos using sugar cubes and frosting on top of an upside down Styrofoam bowl or ice cubes and salt (helps stick cubes together)           -Decorate Eskimo faces, cut them out and glue them onto a paper plate. Glue cotton balls all around to represent the fur on his parka</p>	<p>-Using a paper bag make penguin puppets by cutting out eyes, beak, wings and letting the children glue them on.           -Paper plate penguins-Bend the sides of a paper plate and paint them black, color black or glue black construction paper on them. Have the children draw or glue on facial features toward top of the plate.</p>	<p>-Bird feeders using pine cones, cookie cutters on bread with shortening, seeds and a piece of string or orange halves or tuna cans etc. (see packet)          -On white paper draw a winter scene, then dip toy animals into gray paint and let them do tracks on the white paper.          -Make bunny ears using head bands and pre cut ears. Children can paste on pink and white tissue paper or torn cotton balls onto the ears. Paint bunny faces on the children with noses and whiskers and search the room for food.</p>
<p><b>Outside or Cold day Activities</b></p>	<p>Go on a winter walk and talk about the changes that have been taking place all around us as we moved into winter from Fall. Point out the temperature changes, changes in the trees, and the animals that we do and do not see outside in the winter. Where did most of the birds go?           Snowball relay-2 teams line up. Each team will have the first person put a ball under their chins and then run to a marked spot and back again to hand over the ball to the next person. OR use real snowballs in mittened hands</p>	<p><b>Game: Freeze Snowflakes</b>          Choose one student to be "IT". Play music as the children pretend to be snowflakes dancing, falling, twirling and tumbling. When "IT" shouts "FREEZE SNOWFLAKES!" the children must freeze in their positions. "IT" tries to make them laugh or move without touching. The first player to move is the next "IT."</p>	<p>Ice Fishing Game-use different colored fish, or fish with different shapes on them or fish with a letter of the alphabet or a numeral. The child that catches a fish has to try to guess the attribute. Teacher and friends can assist if need be. (put a paperclip on the fish cut out and fish with a dowel with a magnet on the end of a piece of yarn)</p>	<p>Penguin waddle race-use medium sized balls and have the children place it between their legs and race to a point</p>	<p>Pretend to be animals that hibernate-where on the playground or in the classroom would you go to feel warm and safe? Pretend to be a non-hibernating animal what kind of food will you look for and where will you find it?</p>

# CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

## THE SEASON OF WINTER

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sensory Table</b></p> <p>Put the colored ice cubes into the sensory table and ask the children what will happen to the cubes. Let them build ice sculptures using the cubes.</p> <p>Put a small toy into a container of water so it is completely submerged, freeze it and let the children watch as the item reappears.</p> <p>For non-messy ice-freeze water in a ziplock bag and let them feel it on the outside and talk about the properties and the changes that occurred to the water as it was placed in freezing temperatures</p> <p>Fill three balloons with water(one big, one medium , small) Let freeze overnight. Peel the balloons off and stack the balls (use salt between them to help them melt and stick together. Let the children clothe him and put a carrot nose, stick arms cheerio mouth etc.</p> <p>Cold Paleontologist-freeze small toy dinosaur or other toy into ice cubes and let children use small toy mallet to break them out</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Blocks, Games and Puzzles</b></p> <p>Using many different kinds of blocks make igloos for your pretend Eskimos. Try making tall ones and wide ones.</p> <p>Play a variety of games and do a variety of winter theme puzzles.</p> <p>Use Pattern blocks to make pretty, colorful snowflake designs with six points.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discovery</b></p> <p>Explain that a snowflake has six sides and is called a hexagon (a stop sign is also a hexagon)(given the children a hexagon piece of paper to make a snowflake out of)</p> <p>Make colored ice cubes with the children by mixing a drop of tempera paint with water in ice cube trays, tell the children the water is in a liquid state. Then put the tray into the freezer and ask the children what they think will happen. Later take them out and point out the solid state of the water. If there is an interest the children can look through magazines and cut out solids and liquids (milk=liquid, crackers=solid)</p> <p>Sticky Ice-Put a piece of ice in a bowl of water (should float on top-point out that it is floating) give your children a string and have them try to pick up the cube. They will not be able to do this. Then have them lay the string gently across the ice and put salt over the ice cube. Slowly count to 10 and presto the ice will stick to the string (try it first during circle time to model this for them)</p> <p>Will snow melt faster in your hand or in your mitten? Graph predictions and results. Ask them why they think so.</p> <p><b>Canaries:</b> Math-Ice fishing sheet-you can do it with the children at group time or they can do it by themselves Igloo Math- Write the numeral above the number of dots</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dramatic Play</b></p> <p>Pretend to be Eskimos going ice fishing and making an igloo using a big sheet. Invite friends over to your igloo to enjoy a fish meal. (children can bring in toy rods and fish) Make a camp fire using construction paper to place the pan with fish on top of.</p> <p>Pretend to be a polar bear looking for salmon in the stream. Polar bears are carnivores - let us see your big sharp teeth that you use to eat meat with. What color is your coat of fur usually? White</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literacy (canaries)</b></p> <p>Write T is for Thermometer and draw a picture of one. Does the mercury or liquid show that the temperature is cold or hot? Is it a low number or a high number?</p> <p>How many syllables are there in the word thermometer? Clap it out. Can you think of other 4 syllable words? It is hard. How about 3 syllable words? (ba-na-na, e-lephant)</p> <p>Roll a rhyme-pass a ball as all the children sit in a circle. One rolls a ball to another and says a word "cake" the child receiving the ball rhymes the word "take" then rolls to another child saying a different word to start a new rhyme.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Music/Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Ready for Winter"</li> <li>• "A Song of Winter"</li> <li>• Go ice fishing together. Take turns using the fishing rod and catching a fish with a command written on it. The teacher will read it and whisper it to the fisher who will then act it out. The one to guess it correctly first will be the next fisher. The teacher can read the fish card slowly to the group, pointing to each letter as they are read out loud. The fish could read (hop on one foot, touch your toes, touch your nose, make a funny face, wiggle your ears, raise your eyebrows, blink your eyes open and shut etc) Everyone has to do it.(directions for making a fishing rod are included) Put a paperclip on fish cut outs and write down different activities on them) The children can even decorate the fish before you play the game</li> </ul>