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CHILDCARE EDUCATION INSTITUTE
The Industry Leader for Online Professional Development

Pinnacle

Thank you for your interest in **Pinnacle Curriculum™** as a tool for providing quality programming in your child care center. **Pinnacle Curriculum™** is designed to engage children in developmentally appropriate activities that move them toward their potential in all areas of child development. It provides teachers with daily resources that make creating meaningful learning experiences possible, eliminating the time consuming research that lesson planning often takes.

Pinnacle Curriculum offers six age-specific teacher guides for each month. **Infants, Toddlers, Twos, Threes, Fours and School-Agers all have their own developmentally- appropriate and age-specific curriculum guide for each month of the year.**

What does Pinnacle Curriculum include?

- An easy-to-follow daily or weekly format
- Lesson plan guide
- Options for enriching activity centers every day and week
- Suggested book lists and “ready-to-send” parent letters
- Academic Options
- Daily, weekly, and monthly supply lists
- Art patterns for classroom enrichment

In the accompanying information you will find a sample of materials for each age group. We are confident that you will find **Pinnacle Curriculum™** to be your solution in providing children a curriculum that offers the opportunity to grow and develop to their greatest potential.

If you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact ChildCare Education Institute at 1.800.499.9907. Ask for a Pinnacle specialist who is available to answer your questions or assist you in placing an order.

Sample Infant
Faith-Based Curriculum Guide

SAMPLE

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Welcome to Sample Pinnacle Curriculum™

"Winter Wonders"

The beginning of a new calendar year is upon us! It is a time of fresh starts, promising futures, and winter weather. This January, keep the warmth and joy of Christ in your heart as you move into a brand-new month that sometimes brings the winter blahs. As our scripture focus moves from the baby Jesus to His ministry and His first words of teaching to us, let your mind be filled with the ways of God, not the ways of the world, and you'll demonstrate His peace, love, and joy to your little ones each day.

Create a warm, friendly, and cuddly environment that is a treasure to you and your little ones. Enjoy one-on-one interaction time with the babies as you snuggle and read a book about winter. Introduce them to seasonal clothing, animals, and words during this, their very first winter!

As you introduce new winter words with a mixture of books and real world experiences, find opportunities to repeat them often. Not only will your infants' language skills grow as they hear and mimic the words you say, but they will also expand their cognitive skills by associating meanings with the new winter words.

Keep the great outdoors in your plans, even as the temperature drops! Going outside will give your bundled up babies an opportunity to experience these new winter words you have introduced them to. Pediatricians agree that brief trips outdoors are beneficial for both physical and emotional health. Ask parents to send coats, hats, and mittens each day, and label them with each child's name for your sanity's sake! Be sure to organize warm outerwear in cubbies to make preparations for going outdoors easier. In a short time, your little ones will know that outside time is coming when they see the coats and mittens come out of the cubbies!

January's arrival also brings the opportunity to make New Year's resolutions. Take time to look at each of your infants, and set a special goal for working with them during the new year. Will you pray for them to grow up to love the Lord with all their hearts? Will you read about Jesus to them each day? Will you take an extra opportunity to make them feel special with a snuggle? Look at the babies' individual needs, and resolve to help the babies meet them during their time with you in this new year!

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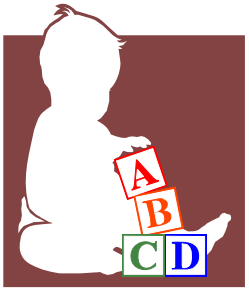
Week 1

Pinnacle: Sample, Week 1

Unit Theme: "Snow, Snowflakes, and Ice"

Bible Focus: "The Beatitudes"

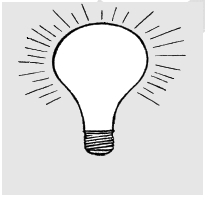


Introduction

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! With lots of sensory adventures, this week is full of opportunities for your infants to hear, see, and feel what winter is all about. Your little ones will learn new words, such as "cold," winter," and "snowflakes," read a special snow story, and build a snowman (even if there's no snow to be found!). So bundle up, get ready, and enjoy a month of winter wonders with your infants!

As you feel refreshed and energized at the opportunity for a "new start," devote yourself to one-on-one time with your babies this week. Talk to them about the new year and the winter weather you may be experiencing. Cuddle your babies to keep them warm inside as you look at the cold weather outside. Or bundle them up and take a short walk outdoors to explore all the wonders of this season!

It's the beginning of a new year! As you examine the past and set goals for your career, finances, health, and family for the new year, take time to look at your spiritual condition and set goals for growth. As you grow in your faith, you'll be able to help your little ones experience the love of God through your nurturing care.



Room Enrichment Ideas

Decorate the room by hanging snowflake cutouts over the diaper-changing table and from the ceiling. Your infants will delight at the sight of them as you change their diapers. Create a big friendly snowman to hang on the wall and add paper icicles to the windows. Make a snowflake label for each child's cubby and crib for a nice wintry touch. Label them "Snowflakes from Heaven" and list each child's name.

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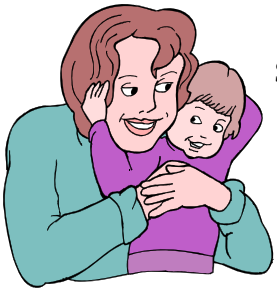
Radical Routines



Send each little one you work with the message that he or she is unique, special, and loved by you and God! Focus on your one-on-one interactions this week. During the routines of the day like diapering, arrivals, and departures, make it a point to give each child your full attention. At mealtimes, sit with the children and encourage conversation. Even though your conversations may seem one-sided, infants are listening and learning from the things you say. Talk to them about how special they are to God. Take time to observe and learn about each child's individual needs and interests. Infants are growing and changing so rapidly. Tune into the changes they are going through and the new skills they are developing. Support their development by challenging them to go to the next level. Provide interesting and new experiences but be careful not to overstimulate or frustrate your infants. Observe closely. Reflect on what you see and help each child grow to his or her potential!

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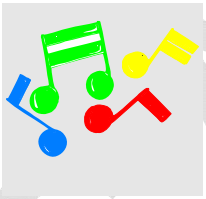

Music, Movement, and Fingerplays

Sing a song to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star:"

Falling, falling little snow,
Falling, falling, shine and glow.
In the light it looks so white,
Falling, falling through the night.
Falling, falling all around,
Snow is falling to the ground.

Use this fingerplay to tickle the baby's toes:

This little snowflake has a shimmer.
This little snowflake has a glimmer.
This little snowflake is new and white.
This little snowflake shows God's light.
This little snowflake is beautiful and bright!

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Bible Focus

Teacher Talk: *Matthew 5:3-12:*

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they will be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say
All kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

After Jesus grew up, He began His ministry. The words of His first sermon spoke of living in stark contrast to the ways of the world. To the proud, He said, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" To the power-hungry, He said, *"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."* The attitudes He mentions are often the exact opposite of the valued attitudes of the current culture. The only way to keep our hearts and minds filled with the "attitudes of the beatitudes" is to keep them filled with the word of God and the love of Christ. As we know more of His love and power, we become humble and poor in spirit, knowing that nothing in our own power can make us righteous and that without His gift of Christ, we would have no hope for eternal life. As we give up our worldly "power" and live in His power, we become "poor in spirit" as He becomes strong through us. *Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Resolve this year to pour yourself into God's Word daily and to seek Him and His ways through prayer. As you focus on the things that are important to God, your attitudes will begin to reflect His priorities, not worldly ones.

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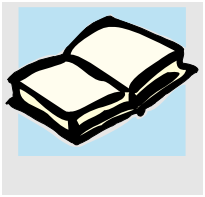
As a natural part of the growth of Godly attitudes, Godly actions will follow. You'll wrap your little ones in the love of God as you see them each day as gifts from Him, ones that you have been given to love, nurture, and bring up in His ways.



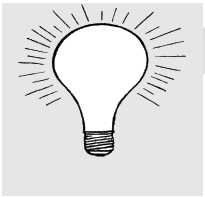
Language/Cognitive

- 0 – 3 Months: Play or sing lullabies to the babies. How about trying to sing one in another language? Check your local music store, library, or ask parents if they have recorded music that they can share with you.

- 3 – 6 Months: Sing winter songs and rhymes often. As you sing about snowflakes, show the children a snowflake cutout, a picture from a book, or better yet, if you're having a snow shower, take them to the window and show them the real thing!

- 6 – 9 Months: Collect several books about winter to add to the book area. Show the babies pictures of snow and things that you can make with snow. For example, point out pictures of snowmen and children making angels in the snow. Create your own story using the pictures you see in the books and the children in your class as the characters.

- 9 – 12 Months: Expose the children to winter words throughout the day. Extend the activity by asking open-ended questions and then answering them for the children. For example, say, "Look at the snow falling. Where do you think it's coming from? That's right; it's coming from the sky." Or say, "Let's put your mittens on. These will help keep your hands warm. Can you say mittens?" This is a great way to foster language and cognitive development using winter words!



Pinnacle Point

If children experience similar childrearing patterns at home and at school, their comfort, trust, and sense of security grow. Take time to ask parents about their babies' sleep, feeding, and playing patterns at home. Help bridge home and school for the infants by using the familiar comforts and routines from home at school. Open communication with parents is key to a successful infant program!

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Fine Motor

- 0 – 3 Months: Place different textured rattles and teethers in the middle of the baby's hand and encourage him or her to hold them. Praise the baby each time he or she grasps or holds a toy. When the baby drops the toy, replace it with one that has a different texture and talk to the baby about the different textures he or she is feeling.

- 3 – 6 Months: Tie a knot at the end of a soft piece of rope. Fray the ends to make a tassel at the knotted end. Hang the rope above the baby, just barely within his or her reach. Encourage the baby to grasp the knot and feel the tassel at the end. *Caution: Be sure to use the rope in such a way that it does not present a choking hazard for the babies.*

- 6 – 9 Months: Place several small blocks inside a clear 28-gallon plastic storage container. Sit with the baby on the floor in front of the container. Talk to him or her about the blocks in the container and encourage the baby to reach in and get one.

- 9 – 12 Months: Have fun playing with the baby using a Chinese checkerboard. Try the following:

    - Poke fingers through the holes
    - Touch each other's fingers
    - Look at each other through the holes
    - Play "Peek-a-Boo" over the top and to the side of the board, etc.

  This provides an opportunity to not only work on fine motor skills but social/emotional development as well!

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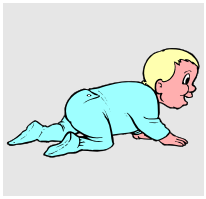


Gross Motor

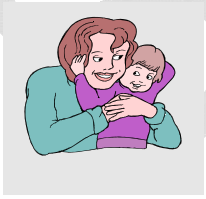
- 0 – 3 Months: Play or sing an upbeat tune or nursery rhyme and gently move the baby's hands to the beat of the music. Discontinue if the baby seems agitated or uncomfortable. This activity helps the babies develop muscle tone and rhythm.

- 3 – 6 Months: Sit with the baby on your knees while you move your knees from side to side and repeat the following rhyme:

  Ride little baby, ride the little mare.
  Ride little baby, going everywhere.
  Riding up the road and right back down again.
  Ride and ride and ride, the fun will never end!

- 6 – 9 Months: Be sure to provide "tummy time" for your infants. Place a soft blanket on the floor and scatter a few toys at one end of the blanket. Put the baby on the blanket on his or her tummy, and encourage the baby to crawl or scoot to get the toys. **Note:** Providing infants with time to be on their stomachs helps strengthen their back and neck muscles. This leads to enhanced motor skills, eye hand coordination, and balance. All of these impact the muscles necessary for crawling!

- 9 – 12 Months: This activity is for babies who are beginning to pull themselves up to a standing position. Place several soft, lightweight toys on a low shelf approximately 16 inches high. Show the baby where the toys are, and encourage him or her to get one by saying, "Can you get the toy by yourself?" or "I think you can reach the toy!" Provide positive reinforcement for the baby's success. Say, "You got it!"



Social/Emotional

- 0 – 3 Months: Sit in a rocking chair and share a very special winter story, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats (1996), with the baby. When you're finished, be sure to tell your babies that they are just as special and unique as the snowflakes in the story!

- 3 – 6 Months: Attach pictures of children to the floor by covering them with contact paper. Place them in locations where the babies will see them as they move around the room or lie on their stomachs. **Note:** Toy shelves or mats can also be used to display pictures.

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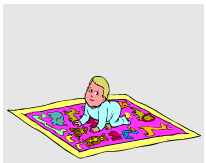
- 6 – 9 Months: Collect pictures of the children in your classroom. Enlarge them to approximately 8" x 10" in size on a color copy machine. Laminate or cover the pictures with contact paper and attach Velcro to the backs. Attach strips of the Velcro backing to a wall, approximately 16 inches off the floor. Place the pictures on the Velcro where the children can see them. Encourage them to pull the pictures off the wall to look at. Extend this activity by including pictures of other children from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds. **Note:** If the backs of toy shelves are exposed, these can also be used to display pictures.

- 9 – 12 Months: Make books with pictures of the children in your classroom, other children from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and children with special needs. Laminate or cover the pictures with contact paper and trim them so that the pictures are the same size and there are no sharp edges. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each picture and bind the pictures with a large metal "O" ring. Place the books in a child-safe basket or on a low shelf for the babies to find and explore.



Sensory Exploration

- 0 – 3 Months: Rub a cotton ball against the baby's hands as you hum or sing a soft song. Talk to the baby about how the cotton ball feels. *Caution: Only do this activity during one-on-one interaction and never allow the babies to explore cotton balls on their own.*

- 3 – 6 Months: Place a wrapper from crackers inside a mesh bag. **Note:** Onions or oranges usually come in mesh bags. Encourage the baby to explore the textures and sounds of this new toy!

- 6 – 9 Months: Provide the baby with items that have contrasting textures. For example, provide sandpaper and copy paper for rough and smooth, wooden blocks and cloth-covered foam balls for hard and soft, etc. Talk to the baby about the different textures he or she is feeling.

- 9 – 12 Months: Place crushed ice in a dish tub or plastic container for the baby to explore. Talk about the texture and temperature of the ice. Provide a tub of warm water next to the ice for the baby to compare and to warm his or her hands at the same time. *Caution: Make sure the water is not too hot. Only place a small amount of water in the container (one-half to one-inch is enough) and never leave the baby unsupervised during this activity.*

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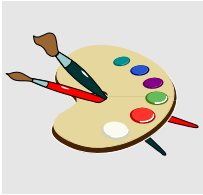

Art Options

- Encourage the older babies to glue large white circles onto blue construction paper to create their own snowmen.

- If snow falls, scoop up a small amount of clean snow and make a miniature snowman in an art tub. Encourage the babies to touch and feel it as you describe the process.

Outdoor Learning

If the temperatures are not too chilly, take the infants out for short periods of time. Be sure to bundle them up with hands and heads covered. Go for a walk to see the sights or find a sunny spot where you can sit on a thick comforter and enjoy the view.

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WEEKLY SUPPLY LIST

Gather the Following Items

- Snowflake cutouts
- Books about winter
- Recordings of lullabies in other languages
- Different textured rattles and teethers
- Chinese checkerboard
- Snowman picture
- Soft, lightweight toys
- Pictures of the children in your class
- Large metal "O" ring
- Pictures of snow and snow things
- Pictures of children from different cultures
- Clear 28-gallon plastic storage container
- Construction paper
- Pictures of children with special needs
- Wrapper from crackers
- Items with contrasting textures
- Dish tubs or plastic containers
- Contact paper
- Scissors
- Soft rope
- Paper icicles
- Small blocks
- Tape player
- Velcro
- Hole puncher
- Basket
- Blanket
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- Mesh bag
- Crushed ice
- Thick comforter

The Snowy Day by Jack Ezra Keats (Viking 1996)

Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

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Weekly Lesson Plan for Infants, 0-3 Months

Sample, Week 1

Area	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name
Music, Movement, and Fingerplays	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay
Bible Focus	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes
Language/Cognitive	Playing or singing lullabies in another language to the baby	Playing or singing lullabies in another language to the baby	Playing or singing lullabies in another language to the baby	Playing or singing lullabies in another language to the baby	Playing or singing lullabies in another language to the baby
Fine Motor	Holding different textured rattles and teethers	Holding different textured rattles and teethers	Holding different textured rattles and teethers	Holding different textured rattles and teethers	Holding different textured rattles and teethers
Gross Motor	Moving the baby's hands to music	Moving the baby's hands to music	Moving the baby's hands to music	Moving the baby's hands to music	Moving the baby's hands to music
Social/Emotional	Reading The Snowy Day to the baby	Reading The Snowy Day to the baby	Reading The Snowy Day to the baby	Reading The Snowy Day to the baby	Reading The Snowy Day to the baby
Sensory Exploration	Rubbing a cotton ball against the baby's hands	Rubbing a cotton ball against the baby's hands	Rubbing a cotton ball against the baby's hands	Rubbing a cotton ball against the baby's hands	Rubbing a cotton ball against the baby's hands
Art Options	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow
Outdoor Learning	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk

*Please write each child's name at the top of a column and check and date when each child completes each activity.

Weekly Lesson Plan for Infants, 3-6 Months

Sample, Week 1

Area	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name
Music, Movement, and Fingerplays	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay
Bible Focus	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes
Language/Cognitive	Singing winter songs and rhymes and looking at winter pictures	Singing winter songs and rhymes and looking at winter pictures	Singing winter songs and rhymes and looking at winter pictures	Singing winter songs and rhymes and looking at winter pictures	Singing winter songs and rhymes and looking at winter pictures
Fine Motor	Feeling a tassel on a rope	Feeling a tassel on a rope	Feeling a tassel on a rope	Feeling a tassel on a rope	Feeling a tassel on a rope
Gross Motor	Bouncing the baby on your knees and saying a rhyme	Bouncing the baby on your knees and saying a rhyme	Bouncing the baby on your knees and saying a rhyme	Bouncing the baby on your knees and saying a rhyme	Bouncing the baby on your knees and saying a rhyme
Social/Emotional	Looking at pictures of children on the floor	Looking at pictures of children on the floor	Looking at pictures of children on the floor	Looking at pictures of children on the floor	Looking at pictures of children on the floor
Sensory Exploration	Exploring a wrapper inside a mesh bag	Exploring a wrapper inside a mesh bag	Exploring a wrapper inside a mesh bag	Exploring a wrapper inside a mesh bag	Exploring a wrapper inside a mesh bag
Art Options	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow
Outdoor Learning	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk

*Please write each child's name at the top of a column and check and date when each child completes each activity.

Weekly Lesson Plan for Infants, 6-9 Months

Sample, Week 1

Area	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name
Music, Movement, and Fingerplays	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay
Bible Focus	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes
Language/Cognitive	Reading books about winter	Reading books about winter	Reading books about winter	Reading books about winter	Reading books about winter
Fine Motor	Reaching for blocks in a container	Reaching for blocks in a container	Reaching for blocks in a container	Reaching for blocks in a container	Reaching for blocks in a container
Gross Motor	Playing with toys while lying on his or her tummy	Playing with toys while lying on his or her tummy	Playing with toys while lying on his or her tummy	Playing with toys while lying on his or her tummy	Playing with toys while lying on his or her tummy
Social/Emotional	Examining a flannel board with pictures of children	Examining a flannel board with pictures of children	Examining a flannel board with pictures of children	Examining a flannel board with pictures of children	Examining a flannel board with pictures of children
Sensory Exploration	Exploring items with contrasting textures	Exploring items with contrasting textures	Exploring items with contrasting textures	Exploring items with contrasting textures	Exploring items with contrasting textures
Art Options	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow
Outdoor Learning	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk

*Please write each child's name at the top of a column and check and date when each child completes each activity.

Weekly Lesson Plan for Infants, 9-12 Months

Sample, Week 1

Area	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name
Music, Movement, and Fingerplays	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay	Singing about snow and doing a snowflake fingerplay
Bible Focus	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes	Developing Godly attitudes
Language/Cognitive	Saying winter words to the baby	Saying winter words to the baby	Saying winter words to the baby	Saying winter words to the baby	Saying winter words to the baby
Fine Motor	Playing with a Chinese checkerboard with the baby	Playing with a Chinese checkerboard with the baby	Playing with a Chinese checkerboard with the baby	Playing with a Chinese checkerboard with the baby	Playing with a Chinese checkerboard with the baby
Gross Motor	Standing and reaching for a toy on a shelf	Standing and reaching for a toy on a shelf	Standing and reaching for a toy on a shelf	Standing and reaching for a toy on a shelf	Standing and reaching for a toy on a shelf
Social/Emotional	Looking at picture books of children	Looking at picture books of children	Looking at picture books of children	Looking at picture books of children	Looking at picture books of children
Sensory Exploration	Exploring tubs of crushed ice and warm water	Exploring tubs of crushed ice and warm water	Exploring tubs of crushed ice and warm water	Exploring tubs of crushed ice and warm water	Exploring tubs of crushed ice and warm water
Art Options	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow	Making snowmen pictures and touching snow
Outdoor Learning	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk	Observing outdoor sights on a walk

*Please write each child's name at the top of a column and check and date when each child completes each activity.