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CHILDCARE EDUCATION INSTITUTE
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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 School-Age
Faith-Based Curriculum Guide

SAMPLE

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Welcome to Sample Pinnacle Curriculum™

"Winter Wonders"

With snow, ice, and frosty weather everywhere, winter is a magical time of year! God has created a world of wonders for us to explore. Whether your snowflakes are made from ice, glitter, or just paper, the winter can be fun wherever you are. This month, as the children get started in a brand-new year, we'll take a look at the wonders of winter. We'll start off with a chance to make New Year's resolutions and then explore the beauty (and science!) of snow. Then we'll look at other winter wonders, from the winter wear we don to the winter animals that thrive in the cold.

Our Bible Focus this month is on *Matthew 5:3-12* – the beatitudes. As we explore them, we'll see the character qualities that Jesus promotes and examine our own behaviors in light of them. We'll study humility, purity, mercy, and boldness for Christ. As your work through the daily devotions, encourage your students to evaluate their lives using Jesus' words as their measure.

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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! As we think of winter, regardless of where we live, we often think of snow. God creates a magical wonderland of snow and ice in many areas in the winter. Children enjoy playing in and experiencing this cold substance and passing down the traditions of making snowballs, snowmen, and snow angels and sledding on white hills.

And if you don't have the magic of white snow falling in your area during the winter season, you can create your own "Winter Wonderland" with crafts, activities, and imagination!

As you talk about snowflakes, discuss how snowflakes, like children, are each unique. No two are the same and each is beautiful in its own way. Reinforce this week that each of your students is different and yet uniquely special!

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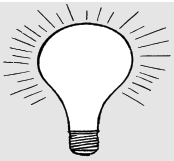

Room Enrichment Ideas

Create a "Winter Wonderland" bulletin board. Use large sheets of white paper to cut out mountains and rolling hills. Create a frozen lake by covering an area with plastic wrap for a shimmering appeal. Use blue paper for the skyline. During the week, have the children add people, snowflakes, snowmen, skiers, ice skaters, sledders, and other decorations to the bulletin board.

During the winter, floors become extremely cold to the touch, even when the heat is turned up high. If your area isn't carpeted, add warm and fuzzy blankets to the chill zone and other areas where the children are likely to sit on the floor.

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.

During your devotional times with your school age students, read the beatitudes together several times during the week. Center your discussions first around verses 3 and 4 as you take them apart during the next few weeks to discover more about how they apply to the lives of young people today.

As you discuss the passage during the daily devotions, consider the following:

- Beatitudes are the BE attitudes – the attitudes we should have. Matthew says we will be blessed or "happy" if we have these attitudes.

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- *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* – To be poor means to be without enough. When we admit that we cannot do everything by ourselves, and that we need Jesus for eternal life, we give up our personal pride and power and allow him to work in us; then the kingdom of heaven becomes ours! The opposite of "poor in spirit" is _____. Discuss together.

- *"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."* – What does Jesus mean by this? How could we be happy if we are mourning? When is it good to be sad? What things might we be sad about? (God was sad when man sinned.)

- Set a scripture memory goal for the students. Have them memorize two or three beatitudes each day, giving them the whole sermon over a week. Provide awards or recognitions for those who accomplish the task!

Special Projects

- Borrow a snow cone machine or crush ice in a blender. Provide the children with different flavors of prepared flavored drink mix in jugs. Supply small, plastic cups and spoons for the children to make their own snow cones. This special treat can be available throughout the day as the children become thirsty or ready for a tasty treat. Remember: this activity does not replace snack; the children are simply munching on crushed ice.

- Build on this activity through role-playing, creativity, and imagination. Encourage the children to make a snow cone stand. Provide a uniform for the snow cone salesperson, money, and a cash register. Don't forget to encourage children to add a sign that lists the cone size, cost, and variety of flavors available!

Creative Arts

- **Snowflakes:** Have the children decorate the classroom with as many beautiful snowflakes as they can create! Here are some different ways they can make snowflakes:

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1. Cut a bell pepper in half and clean out the seeds. Encourage the children to dip the pepper in white paint and make prints on colored paper to form "snowflakes!"

2. Have the children cut paper into a circle. Fold the paper in half and then in half again. Encourage them to cut out shapes, unfold once, and cut out another shape. They can then unfold the paper to see their snowflake!

3. Let the children bend and twist silver or white pipe cleaners to create snowflakes.

4. Have the children "thread" small marshmallows on wooden or plastic skewers or toothpicks and join them together to create a snowflake.

5. For an extra special snowflake, have the children fold a white paper circle into 16ths and cut out small pieces around the edges and corners. They can add color to the snowflakes by covering them with glue and glitter or salt, or paint with sponges.

- **White Collage:** Add cotton balls, cotton swabs, white construction paper scraps, white buttons, popcorn, plastic foam packing pieces, and any other white things you can find to the art area. Encourage the students to make a white collage. Encourage three-dimensional art too!

- **Papier-mâché Snowmen:** Have the children cover three small, round balloons with papier-mâché and let dry. When dried, an adult can insert a pair of scissors to pop the balloon. The children can then glue the three circles together to create the head and body of the snowman. When the glue has dried, encourage the children to paint the molds white and decorate by painting eyes, a nose, mouth, and buttons. Supply construction paper for a hat and scarf.

- **Soapy Snowmen:** Grate soap and let the children mix it with a couple of tablespoons of water and mix it into a ball using their hands. Have them make three balls: one small, one medium, and one large. Let them add eyes and a nose using spices, make arms from toothpicks, and add fabric for the scarf. This activity is great for fine motor development!

- **"Snowballs:"** Blow up a balloon to the size of a softball. *Caution: Balloons can be a choking hazard, even for older kids, so it's best if an adult blows up any balloons.* Encourage the children to cut about two to three feet of white yarn and dip it in glue. Have them wrap the yarn around the balloon. After wrapping the balloons, encourage the children to sprinkle them with white glitter. Hang the balloons to dry for 24 hours. When the glue is dry, pop the balloons and enjoy your "snowballs!"

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- **Snow Angels:** To make a snow angel, the children will need white facial tissues for the wings and a clothespin for the face and body. Have them slide two sheets of tissue between a clothespin. Encourage them to draw a face on the clothespin. A silver pipe cleaner can be twisted around the clothespin for a sash or for use as a hanger.

Board Games

- Use winter stickers to add pizzazz to checkerboard pieces. For example, place snowman stickers on all the black pieces and snowflake stickers on the red pieces.

- Create a felt tic-tac-toe game. Draw a tic-tac-toe board with a permanent, black marker on one sheet of felt. Use other sheets of felt to create playing pieces. Two sets of five pieces are needed to play this game. You might want to make snowflake, snowman, snowball, or sled playing pieces.

- Have the children play a "Winter Wonderland word game" by using only winter words.

- Encourage the children to play "Snowman" like "Hangman" by drawing a snowman instead of a stick figure.

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The Chill Zone

- Discuss what the word "resolution" means. Let each child state a resolution he or she would like to make for the New Year (or let them make several, if they're feeling creative!). Encourage the children to work together to write them down in a place that they can be kept. Encourage the children to review them in the chill zone a few times each week. Challenge them to keep working on their goals and set a date each month that they can pull out their sheets and take a look to see if they're still on track!

- Develop a prayer list for the students in your classroom. Keep a journal of answered prayers in the chill zone. The students can add prayer requests or praises as they relax there.

- The students may enjoy acting out winter sports in a game of charades. Possible winter sports to act out include ice-skating, ice hockey, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and bobsledding.

- Add lots of white pillows and winter books for reading to the area. Travel agency pictures of snowy places for "dreaming and planning" add fun!

- Encourage the children to play "winter riddle" brainteasers. Begin by making up two or three riddles for the students. For example: "Children have fun sitting on me and riding down a snowy hill. What am I?" (A sled) When the children catch on, let them enjoy making up their own riddles to try to stump their friends. Encourage them to record and make their own winter joke book.

Homework/Educational Enrichment

- Encourage the children to create compound words using the word "snow".

- Share the story of "Frosty the Snowman". Have the children share what they would do with a real-life snowman through pictures and words.

- Have the students sit in a circle and finish the sentence "I would like to _____ in the snow." Each version will be unique and expressive.

- Let the students make their own January calendars. Supply white paper, pencils, and rulers. Encourage the children to figure out how many squares they need and how to make each square the same size. Once the squares are completed, encourage the students to make notes on any special days and add a winter holiday scene to the top.

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Outdoor and Group Games

- Ice hockey is a popular outdoor winter game in some areas. Provide the children with hockey sticks and a hockey puck to play one-on-one hockey. For variety, the children can use two brooms and a ball.

- During the day, encourage the children to fill a bucket with crumbled paper. While outdoors, let the children have a snowball challenge. The challenge is to hit a target as many times as possible with the snowballs.

- If a hill is available, allow the children to go sledding (on snow or grass). Sleds or pool floats work well on grass and will be just as enjoyable! *Caution: Be sure that there is a clearing at the bottom of the slope.*

Activity Center Options

- **Cooking Options:** Have the children make ice cream snowman. They can use sprinkles and candies to transform two scoops of vanilla ice cream into "Frosty the Snowman".

  Make your own ice cream with the children.

  Make chicken soup to warm up your bodies! Have the children bring in different types of pasta noodles. Cut chicken pieces and place them in a pot of water and chicken broth. Each child can add one cup of his or her noodles to the pot of chicken. The children can use plastic knives to help cut celery. Sprinkle in other seasonings to taste. Bring the pot to boil and let the broth simmer until the chicken and noodles are cooked. Cool and serve.

- **Science Options:** Place an ice cube in a glass of water. Have the children take a piece of string, lay it across the ice, and try to pick the ice up with the string. They most likely will not be able to do this. Then let them put some salt on the string, lay it on the ice, wait a minute, and then try to pick up the ice again. The string will be able to hold the ice!

  Place an arrangement of flowers and green foliage in a clean milk carton. Fill the carton with water. Make sure the water covers the top of the arrangement. Place the carton in a freezer overnight. Remove the carton from the freezer and let the

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ice thaw out on a large tray. The children will enjoy watching the plants reappear as the ice melts!

Children can experiment to discover what will melt ice the fastest – salt, water, or a mixture of both. Provide three pie pans of ice – one for the salt, one for the water, and one for the mixture. Have the children chart their predictions and the outcomes of their experiment.

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SAMPLE CURRICULUM
SCHOOL AGE
"WINTER WONDERS"

WEEKLY SUPPLY LIST

Gather or Purchase the Following Items:

- Large white paper
- Various winter cutouts
- Warm and fuzzy blankets
- Snow cone machine or blender
- Various flavors of drink mix
- Props for selling snow cones
- Small marshmallows
- Silver or white pipe cleaners
- Wooden or plastic skewers
- Paper in various colors
- Cotton balls
- Plastic foam packing pieces
- Papier-mâché materials
- Grated soap
- Toothpicks
- White yarn
- White face tissues
- Permanent, black marker
- Pictures of snowy places
- White pillows
- "Frosty the Snowman"
- Hockey sticks
- Supplies for making ice cream
- Sleds or pool tubes
- Vanilla ice cream
- Sprinkles and candies
- Chicken pieces
- Seasonings for chicken soup
- Pasta noodles collected from children
- Clean milk carton
- Arrangement of flowers and green foliage
- Large tray
- Magazines
- Children's Bibles
- Plastic wrap
- Ice
- Plastic spoons
- Small, plastic cups
- Bell pepper
- White paint
- Glue
- Glitter
- Sponges
- Cotton swabs
- White buttons
- Popcorn
- Balloons
- Spices
- Fabric
- Clothespins
- Winter stickers
- Sheets of felt
- Winter books
- Word games
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Hockey puck
- Bowls
- Bucket
- Pot
- Chicken broth
- Celery
- Plastic knives
- Salt
- String
- Pans
- Journal

Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

Sample Monthly Lesson Plan for School-Age

Area	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Bible Focus	Reading, memorizing, and discussing being poor in spirit and mourning	Discussing hungering and thirsting for righteousness and being meek	Discussing being merciful and showing compassion	Discussing keeping a pure heart, listing things to avoid, and making soap carvings	Discussing persecution and standing up for your faith
Special Projects	Making snow cones and pretending to sell snow cones	Having a winter wear fashion show	Creating a frozen lake and a penguin welcome mat	Building a snow cave or igloo	Making an igloo
Creative Arts	Making snowflakes, a white collage, snowmen, snowballs, and snow angels	Making puppets, a sweater, winter picture, snow, mittens, scarves, and ice painting	Making seals, beanbag fish, and penguin bottles, finger puppets, and toilet paper tubes	Making various polar bears, animal tracks, and ice sculptures	Making an igloo, an edible treat, soap carvings, a sled, and stuffed bears
Board Games	Playing winter checkers, tic-tac-toe, and word games and playing "Snowman"	Playing jacks, Chinese checkers, mitten concentration, and winter "Bingo"	Creating a winter game, doing a winter puzzle, and playing stacking and other favorite games	Playing memory and having tournaments with favorite games	Playing winter checkers and tic-tac-toe
The Chill Zone	Making resolutions, developing a prayer list, acting out winter sports, reading, and making riddles	Reading about winter, making self-portraits, and writing about hats and snowmen	Bracelet making, listening to sounds, reading about winter, and playing a game	Using flashlights, identifying smells while blindfolded, and discussing polar bears	Reading, discussing how Eskimos travel, and discussing Alaska and dogsleds
Homework/Educational Enrichment	Making "snow" words, reading about Frosty, talking about snow, and making calendars	Finding clothing origins, making "fog," exploring ice, and doing a play about kittens	Exploring the Arctic and Antarctica, playing Arctic "Hangman," and looking for black items	Exploring the Arctic and Antarctica, naming favorite animals, and discussing polar bears	Learning about Eskimos, naming snowflakes, and melting ice cubes
Outdoor and Group Games	Playing hockey, having a snowball challenge, and sledding	Holding an ice cube, jumping over a scarf, doing a clothing relay, and finding a mitten	Bowling, feeding animals, balancing balls, waddling, and playing winter games	Winter walking, iceberg jumping, and playing winter hopscotch and polar bear games	Having a dogsled race and using water balloon "snowballs"
Activity Center Options	Enjoying ice cream and soup cooking options and watching or making ice melt and lifting ice	Designing clothing and making a winter wear display	Identifying strengths and making a coat of arms, or watching crayons repel water	Playing winter animal games, exploring "blubber," and freezing bubbles	Taking temperatures and tasting colored water

Sample