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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 Three-Year-Old Faith-Based Curriculum Guide

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Welcome to Sample Pinnacle Curriculum™

"Winter Wonders"

January is here and with the new month come winter wonders God has given us that make it a thrilling time of year! With snow, ice, and frosty weather all around, your threes can learn all about the wonders of winter as they play and explore. Whether your snowflakes are made from ice, glitter, or just cut paper, the winter can be fun as you work through Pinnacle Curriculum™ this month. Week 1 starts with a look at snow, snowflakes, and ice. Week 2 focuses on winter outerwear – mittens, hats, scarves, and coats. Next, in weeks 3 and 4, comes a look at wintry animals – polar bears, penguins, and seals. Finally, in Week 5, we'll learn about the lives of Eskimos and how they live in very cold climates. Assess your students' interests, choose the weekly units that interest them, and plan your month around your choices.

Remember to 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 the children in your classroom each day. This month, as we take a look at the beatitudes in Matthew 5, be sure to help your threes relate to the "be-attitudes" – the attitudes that Jesus wants us to have.

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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. Children enjoy playing in and experiencing this cold substance and passing down the traditions of making snowballs, snowmen, and snow angels.

And even if God hasn't given you the white magic of 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. God hasn't made any two the same and yet each is beautiful in its own way. Reinforce this week that each of your students is different, and yet uniquely special!

The objectives for this week are as follows:

- To encourage social-emotional development through exploring feelings
- To encourage a positive self-concept through positive interactions and presentations of each child as unique and special
- To promote a positive self-concept through providing classroom successes and independent choices
- To encourage social-emotional development through cooperative play, sharing, and respect.
- To develop fine motor skills and early writing through scribbles and representations
- To develop fine motor and cognitive skills through manipulative play and problem-solving

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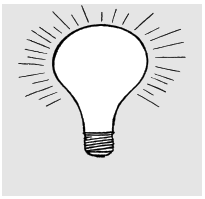
- To develop positive relationships with peers and adults through interactions and play
- To develop language and communication skills thorough rhymes, poems, and reading
- To develop large motor skills through activities that involve jumping, running, and balance



Room Enrichment Ideas

Add snowflakes to your windows as children create them this week. Use a blue background on your bulletin boards and fill it with snowmen and snowflakes. Label the scene "God's Wintry Wonderland." Spray a window with nontoxic snow spray, and create a "winter wonderland" even in warm winter climates!

Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

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Pinnacle: Sample, Week 1 Day 1

Morning Group

- Welcome – Greet the children and talk about the cold weather as you help to remove their coats.

- Radical Morning Routines:
  - Talk with the children about any upcoming events. Say hello to January and good-bye to December. Take this opportunity to welcome the New Year. Provide noisemakers if available. If these are not available, have the children use classroom instruments or their own voices. Three-year-olds may not understand the concept of a new year, but will enjoy the chance to celebrate. Many will have seen the grownups in their lives celebrating.
  - Continue talking with the children about the cold weather. Have the weather helper report on the day's weather. Record on the weather chart and dress Weather Bear appropriately.
  - Assign jobs to the children and thank the children for being willing to help in the classroom.
  - Prayer: Thank You, God, for snowflakes.
    And thank You, God, for making me.
    For everyone is different,
    Each one a specialty. Amen.

- Theme and Bible Talk – Sing a song with the children to the tune of "The Itsy, Bitsy Spider:"

  The itsy, bitsy snowflakes,
  Fall from the sky above.
  Down to the ground,
  Oh, wintertime I love!
  Covering the grass,
  So the white is all around.
  Oh, the itsy, bitsy snowflakes,
  Are falling to the ground.

  Many of the children may not have seen snow before. Bring pictures of snowy scenes and talk about how snow feels. Talk about how God made the snow, as He made all things. Stop and thank Him for it.

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Bible Focus

Bible Circle Time: Beatitudes are the "be-attitudes," the attitudes we should have. Share with the children that this month we are going to be learning about how we should think or feel about things. That is what an attitude is. Jesus taught us that if we have certain attitudes we will be happy.

Read *Matthew 5:3-12* or The Beautitudes (Prayers with Bears) by Alan and Linda Parry (Thomas Nelson Publishers 2000) on beatitudes to the children. Explain that if we do not have "be-attitudes," we are frozen inside just like the snow on the ground. "Be-attitudes" keep us warm inside.

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.

Sing a song about the "be-attitudes."

I've got the "be-attitudes" deep in my heart,
Deep in my heart, deep in my heart.
I've got the "be-attitudes" deep in my heart,
Deep in my heart to stay.

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Large Group

Bring several pieces of ice to the circle. Listen as the children share their experiences with ice. Suggest that the children touch the ice and discuss the feeling of cold. Have the children name other things they can think of that are cold. Pass the ice around the circle and encourage each child to name something cold when it is his turn to hold the ice. Repetition of items is okay. Many children may be hesitant to participate. Encourage those who express an interest. Play this game several times this week. As you continue to talk about cold things during the week, many of the hesitant children will feel more confident.

Small Group

Share a favorite ice-cold treat with the children – freezer pops! If freezer space is available, invite the children to make their own freezer pops using a mold and flavored drink mix. These can be eaten later in the day as a special snack. As you enjoy the freezer pops, encourage the children to talk about the coldness. Encourage the children to use words such as cold, freezing, melting, etc.

Language

Place several favorite color books in empty freezer pops boxes. Suggest that the children check the "special freezer pops shelves" for special books. If color books are not available, any favorite books are suitable.

Creative Arts

Provide ice cube paint. Freeze tempera paints in ice cube trays in which you have inserted craft sticks. Encourage the children to experiment with the colors. Provide freezer pop shaped paper for painting if desired.

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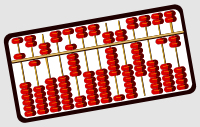
Science/Sensory

Place a piece of ice on a paper plate in the science center. Invite the children to observe the ice and talk about what they see happening. Talk with the children and encourage them to use the new words introduced during large group.

Dramatic Play

Transform the dramatic play center into a freezer pop stand. Provide several paper freezer pops of varying colors, cash register, and play money.



Math/Manipulative

Introduce a new game today. Glue several craft sticks to a file folder. Color each stick or draw a colored dot on the end of each. Cut several freezer pop shapes from colored construction paper and invite the children to match the freezer pops to the stick of the same color. Laminate for added durability.

Blocks

Add several ice cube trays to the block center. Invite the children to add blocks to the trays. Small coolers for filling can also be fun.

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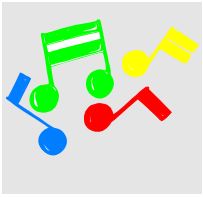


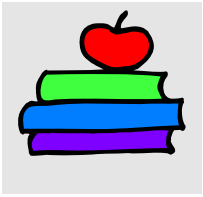
Music/Movement

Play soft music and invite the children move like ice melting.

Alternate activity: Bring the instruments used in the New Year's celebration to the music center and invite the children to continue the celebration.

Outdoor Learning

Play "Follow the Leader" and lead children in floating like snowflakes.



Academic Options

We've chosen this wintry time of month to focus on the letter "W"! Here are a few ideas to get you children learning about the letter "W":

- Call attention to the letter "W" in your alphabet chart and the "W" in Wednesday on your calendar.
- Search together for any other "W"s that might be in the room.
- Books with the letter "W" in the title, such as Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins 1988), encourage the development of the concept that letters make "words" and words make stories!
- Create a variety of "W's" made from different textures reinforce the shape of "W".
- Add templates of capital and lowercase "W" for tracing or rubbing activities this week.
- "W"s can easily be made from toothpicks, straws, pretzels, and other straight objects. (Be sure to supervise activities with these materials closely.)
- For some large motor practice too, make "W"s out of children's straight bodies lying on the floor!
- Create a large "W" template for each child to glue wallpaper scraps to.
- Add wigs and wallets to the housekeeping area.
- Make your classroom a "winter wonderland" and celebrate "winter weather" this week!

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DAILY SUPPLY LIST

Gather the Following Items:

Noisemakers or musical instruments	Snowman cutouts
Snowy scene pictures	Ice
Freezer pops/frozen flavored drink mix	Color books
Freezer pop boxes	Freezer pop cutouts
Frozen tempera paints with craft sticks	Paper plate
Cash register	Play money
Craft sticks	File folder
Ice cube trays	Coolers
Snowflake cutouts	"W" items
Blue bulletin board paper	Soft music

The Beautitudes (Prayers With Bears) by Alan and Linda Parry (Thomas Nelson Publishers 2000)

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Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

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Weekly Lesson Plan for Three-Year-Olds

Sample, Week 1

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Group	Singing and discussing snow	Singing and discussing snow and "be-attitudes"	Singing and discussing "be-attitudes"	Singing, doing a fingerplay, reading, and doing an experiment	Discussing snow and forgiveness and finding white objects
Bible Focus	Introducing the "be-attitudes" and singing	Discussing being poor in spirit	Discussing the warmth Jesus brings	Discussing the "be-attitudes" and singing	Discussing comfort from Jesus and others and singing
Large Group	Discussing cold items	Following directions on snowflakes	Discussing cold items	Discussing Jack Frost and singing	Saying a rhyme about snowmen
Small Group	Eating freezer pops	Reading The Snowy Day or making praying hands	Making paper snowmen	Blowing "snow" and making snowflakes	Making up a picture about a snowy scene
Language	Looking at color books	Reading in "snow"	Reading in "snowdrifts"	Retelling a winter story using flannelboard	Using flannelboard snowpeople props
Creative Arts	Ice cube painting	Creating white snow collages	Making snowflake pictures	Making snowy pictures	Making a snowman
Science/Sensory	Watching ice melt	Watching ice melt	Watching ice melt	Exploring snow	Exploring crushed ice
Dramatic Play	Selling freezer pops	Selling freezer pops	Making a pillowcase snowman	Making a pillowcase snowman and taking pictures	Creating a "snowstorm"
Math/Manipulative	Playing a freezer pop file folder game	Playing a freezer pop file folder game	Making paper snowmen	Enjoying this week's games	Sorting manipulatives by color
Blocks	Using ice cube trays and coolers	Making snowdrifts	Making snow creations	Using small, plastic people	Using bags of ice
Music/Movement	Melting like ice or celebrating the New Year	Pretending to build snowmen	Playing with whipped cream "snow"	Making "snow" angels	Playing "cold snowball"
Outdoor Learning	Floating like snowflakes	Throwing imaginary snowballs	Bouncing "snowballs" on a parachute	Blowing bubbles	Pretending to be snowflakes while sliding
Academic Options	Exploring "W"	Exploring "white"	Exploring the star shape	Exploring "5"	Having a "Wild and Wacky" day

Sample