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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
Toddler Curriculum

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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, make an effort to hold onto your holiday joy throughout the month that sometimes brings the winter blahs. Create a warm, friendly, and cuddly environment that is a treasure to you and your little ones during the winter months. Enjoy one-on-one interaction time with your toddlers as you snuggle and read a book about winter. Introduce them to seasonal clothing, animals, and words this month!

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 toddlers' 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! This will give your bundled up toddlers an opportunity to experience the new winter words you have introduced them to firsthand. 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 with it the opportunity to make New Year's resolutions. Take time to look at each of your toddlers, and set a special goal for working with them during the new year. Will you read a book each day to them? Will you take an extra opportunity to make them feel special with a snuggle? Will you help them learn to balance as you walk together? Look at their individual needs, and resolve to help your little ones meet them during their time with you in this new year!

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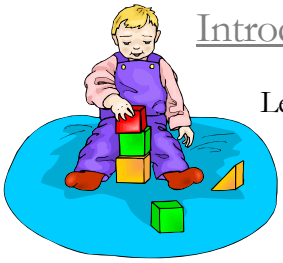
Week 1

Pinnacle: Sample, Week 1

Unit Theme: "Snow, Snowflakes, and Ice"



Introduction

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! This week is full of opportunities for toddlers to experience the wonders of winter! With lots of sensory adventures to choose from, they may fingerpaint with "snow paint," explore "melting snow," and learn all about the color white as you talk about the winter weather and the new year. Learning new skills such as taking turns, sharing, and putting their coats on all by themselves will be the focus of this week. And in all the excitement, don't forget to take time for cuddling up and browsing through books and enjoying quiet play with your toddlers. Have fun and share their joy and delight in all their new discoveries!

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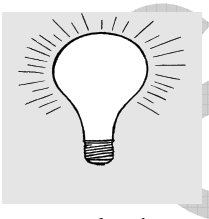

Room Enrichment Ideas

Decorate the room by hanging snowflake cutouts over the diaper-changing table and adding them to the walls. Create a big snowman to display on the wall and dangle paper icicles from the windows. Hang crystal prisms from the windows too, so they will catch the sunlight coming through. Add a winter window scene to your dramatic play area. Find a large poster of an outdoor scene and laminate or cover it with clear contact paper. Attach the poster to the wall about three feet off the floor. Add a window frame and panes with colored strips of paper or posterboard. Hang real curtains at the window or make pretend curtains to add a homey touch. What a fun view for your toddlers!

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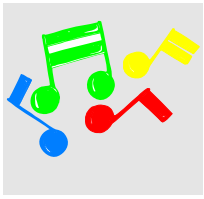
Radical Routines

This week, focus on your one-on-one interactions with your toddlers. Send the message that each one is special. 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, the toddlers are listening and learning from the things you say. Take time to observe and learn about each child's individual needs and interests. Toddlers are growing and changing rapidly. Learning language and large motor activities are of particular interest to toddlers. 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 toddlers. Observe closely. Reflect on what you see and help each child grow to his or her potential!



Music, Movement, and Fingerplays

Encourage the children to pretend they are snowflakes as you sing the following song to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star:"

Snowflakes falling to the ground;
Wintertime is all around.
It is cold and icy too.
Oh, what fun for me and you!
Snowflakes falling to the ground;
Wintertime is all around.

Sing the following song:

I'm a little snowman, short and fat.
With a carrot nose and a winter hat.
When the sun comes out, I'll melt away.
Come build me again on a snowy day!

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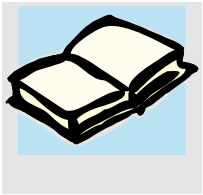

Language/Cognitive

- 12 – 18 Months: Make books of winter wonders for the toddlers to peruse. Collect old holiday greeting cards that have pictures of snowy scenes. **Note:** Using cards with shiny colors, textures, and glitter will make these books very attractive to toddlers. Ask parents and coworkers to donate old holiday cards they may have. Glue the backs of the cards to a sturdy piece of cardboard so that the card can still be opened. Bind the cardboard pieces together by punching holes along the edges and tying them with yarn or by fastening "O" rings. Place the books in your cozy area for the toddlers to find and look at. Sit with the toddlers and explore the pictures together. Talk about the pictures. Name the objects, colors, and textures on the cards.

- 18 – 24 Months: Cut circles from white felt and place them on the flannelboard to use in building a snowman. Encourage the children to help you count as you build and invite those who are interested to place the circles on the board with you.

Fine Motor

- 12 – 18 Months: Make white dough by mixing together 3 cups flour, 2 cups salt, 3 cups vegetable oil, and 4 tablespoons warm water. Sit with the toddlers at a low table. Give each one a small amount of the white dough in a cup or plastic bowl to pinch, poke, and pull apart. Talk to the toddlers about what they are doing with the dough and how it feels. **Note:** This recipe works well because the dough will not dry out if left uncovered. Also, the salty flavor will help to discourage the toddlers from eating it.

- 18 – 24 Months: Make lacing cards so the toddlers can practice using their hands and fingers together. Cut several pictures from magazines, approximately 4" x 6." Glue the pictures to sturdy cardboard of the same size and cover them with clear contact paper. Punch holes around the edge of each picture and tie a shoelace through one of the holes. Demonstrate for the toddlers how to thread the shoelace into one of the holes and pull it through the other side. Encourage them to continue on their own, choosing whatever holes they wish to use.

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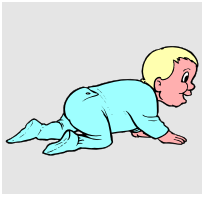

Gross Motor

- 12 – 18 Months: Gather several beach balls and encourage the children to roll, toss, and kick them. Then sit on the floor with a laundry basket on one side of the classroom. Call to individual children and encourage them to place their beach balls in the basket.

- 18 – 24 Months: Make "snowballs" for the toddlers to feel and toss. Push a large handful of fiberfill into the bottom of white tube socks. Tie a knot in each sock to form a ball and secure the filling in place. Fold the loose end of the sock back over the ball. Place the "snowballs" in a small laundry basket or plastic container for the toddlers to discover and explore. As the toddlers show interest, initiate a game of tossing the snowballs. Encourage them to toss the balls to you, to each other, and into the basket.

Social/Emotional

- 12 – 18 Months: Learning to share and take turns is difficult for toddlers. Play a game of taking turns to start the learning process in this area. Bring a stuffed animal with you and sit with two toddlers. Encourage them to take turns giving the animal a hug and kiss and passing it to the next person. If other children show an interest, invite them to join in this sharing game. Be sure to praise the children for their efforts and encourage them to "kiss, hug, and pass!"

- 18 – 24 Months: Teach the toddlers a neat way to put on their coats. Assist them in laying their coats on the floor in front of them, upside-down with the inside of the coat facing up. Instruct them to bend over and put their arms into the sleeves. When their arms are well into their sleeves, have them stand up while they swing their arms back and around so that their coats go over their heads and onto their backs. The toddlers will feel a great sense of pride in putting their coats on by themselves.

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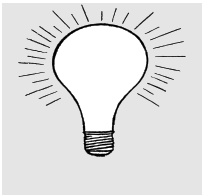
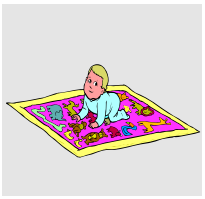


Pinnacle Point

Mastering new skills is very exciting for toddlers, and they feel a great sense of pride in their accomplishments. It's important to toddlers that the special adults in their lives celebrate their successes with them. When toddlers receive praise and acknowledgment such as "Hey, you did it! You put your coat on all by yourself," they are encouraged to keep trying new things. Relishing in the approval of significant adults is also essential for the development of each child's positive self-image. Always be on the lookout for toddlers' accomplishments – big or small. Make it a point to share in their excitement and support their sense of pride.



Sensory Exploration

- 12 – 18 Months: Explore the color white. Collect a variety of white objects that have different shapes and textures. Possible objects include plastic cups, washcloths, socks, envelopes, yarn, ribbon, strips of paper, fabric scraps, golf balls, fiberfill, etc. Place the items in a sensory table or low plastic tub for the toddlers to explore. Talk to them about the objects and emphasize the color white. *Caution: Make sure that all the objects are child-safe.*

- 18 – 24 Months: Collect foam-packing peanuts – the kind that disintegrates in water. Place the foam peanuts in a tub or sensory table for the toddlers to explore. Add a small amount of water to the bottom of the tub and encourage the toddlers to mix the peanuts with the water. Talk about how the foam peanuts "melt like snow."

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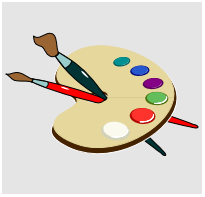

Art Options

Make white fingerpaint for toddlers by mixing liquid starch, soap flakes, and baby powder to a smooth consistency. Allow the toddlers to fingerpaint directly on a low table or on a lunch tray or cookie sheet. To save their snowy creations, simply press colored construction paper over their work and carefully lift it off to reveal their designs. *Caution: Supervise closely so that the paint mixture does not end up in the toddlers' mouths.*

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Learning Center Options

Manipulatives Center: Provide sponge blocks for the toddlers to make tall structures and knock them down. Make blocks in a variety of sizes using thick sheets of foam rubber or use dry soft sponges like the ones used for washing cars. Place 25-30 sponge blocks in a container for the toddlers to find and play with.

Dramatic Play Center: Decorate several boxes like sleds so the children can give their dolls a ride. Include books and magazines in your dramatic play area that contain pictures of children and families playing in the snow. Add pictures of skiers and ice skaters to the walls and sides of toy shelves.

Outdoor Learning

Although temperatures are probably chilly, it's important to take the toddlers outside, even if it's only for short periods of time. Be sure to bundle them up with their hands and heads covered. Go for a walk to see the sights and feel the cold air on your cheeks. Talk about the temperature of the air and what you see going on around you. Point out differences between what it's like now and what it is like in the spring.

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WEEKLY SUPPLY LIST

Gather the Following Items:

- Snowflake cutouts
- Snowman picture
- Books and magazines about snowy play
- Winter window scene
- Colored posterboard
- Curtains or pretend curtains
- Old holiday greeting cards
- Simple picture books and toys to match
- Cups or small bowls
- Magazine picture cutouts
- White pillowcase
- Laundry baskets
- Pictures of ice skaters
- Various child-safe white objects
- Foam peanuts that dissolve in water
- Colored construction paper
- Thick foam rubber or dry soft sponges
- Stuffed animals
- Lunch trays or cookie sheets
- Flannelboard
- Hole puncher
- Books and magazines about families playing in snow
- Boxes
- Scissors
- Crystal prisms
- Contact paper
- Cardboard
- Yarn or "O" rings
- Flour
- Salt
- Shoelaces
- Vegetable oil
- Beach balls
- Fiberfill
- Liquid starch
- Soap flakes
- Baby powder
- Pictures of skiers
- White tube socks
- White felt
- Paper icicles
- Large bowl

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Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

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Weekly Lesson Plan for Toddlers, 12-18 months

Sample, Week 1

Area	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name
Music and Movement and Fingerplays	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather
Language/Cognitive	Looking at books of winter wonders	Looking at books of winter wonders	Looking at books of winter wonders	Looking at books of winter wonders	Looking at books of winter wonders
Fine Motor	Playing with white dough	Playing with white dough	Playing with white dough	Playing with white dough	Playing with white dough
Gross Motor	Hitting a beach ball	Hitting a beach ball	Hitting a beach ball	Hitting a beach ball	Hitting a beach ball
Social/Emotional	Taking turns dropping table tennis balls into a jug	Taking turns dropping table tennis balls into a jug	Taking turns dropping table tennis balls into a jug	Taking turns dropping table tennis balls into a jug	Taking turns dropping table tennis balls into a jug
Sensory Exploration	Exploring various white objects	Exploring various white objects	Exploring various white objects	Exploring various white objects	Exploring various white objects
Art Options	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint
Learning Center Options	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play
Outdoor Learning	Going for a walk	Going for a walk	Going for a walk	Going for a walk	Going for a walk

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

Sample

Weekly Lesson Plan for Toddlers, 18-24 months

Sample, Week 1

Area	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name	Child's Name
Music and Movement and Fingerplays	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather	Singing about snowflakes and cold weather
Language/Cognitive	Using "story boxes"	Using "story boxes"	Using "story boxes"	Using "story boxes"	Using "story boxes"
Fine Motor	Using lacing cards	Using lacing cards	Using lacing cards	Using lacing cards	Using lacing cards
Gross Motor	Tossing "snowballs"	Tossing "snowballs"	Tossing "snowballs"	Tossing "snowballs"	Tossing "snowballs"
Social/Emotional	Learning to put on a coat	Learning to put on a coat	Learning to put on a coat	Learning to put on a coat	Learning to put on a coat
Sensory Exploration	Exploring foam peanuts and water	Exploring foam peanuts and water	Exploring foam peanuts and water	Exploring foam peanuts and water	Exploring foam peanuts and water
Art Options	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint	Using white fingerpaint
Learning Center Options	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play	Building with sponge blocks and enjoying "snowy" dramatic play
Outdoor Learning	Going for a walk	Going for a walk	Going for a walk	Going for a walk	Going for a walk

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

Sample