



# Sample School-Age Curriculum

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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! 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 Character Education this month will focus on patience, and school-age students certainly have many opportunities to practice that trait! As they interact with each other and work in centers, recognize and praise patient behavior. Create a "Patient Pals" area on the wall or bulletin board and put a basket of precut snowflakes under it. Encourage the students to acknowledge the patience they see in others by putting the name of the "Patient Pal" and the date of his or her patient action on a snowflake and adding it to the wall. Encourage them to work to create a "blizzard" of "Patient Pals" on the wall!



## Pinnacle: Sample, Week 1

Unit Theme: "Snow, Snowflakes, and Ice"

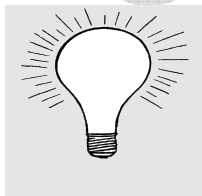


### Introduction

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 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!



### Room Enrichment Ideas

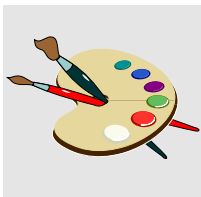
Create a "Winter Wonderland" bulletin board. Use large sheets of white paper to cut out mountains and rolling hills. Create a frozen lake by covering an area with plastic wrap for a shimmering appeal. Use blue paper for the skyline. During the week, have the children add people, snowflakes, snowmen,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



## Special Projects

- Borrow a snow cone machine or crush ice in a blender. Provide the children with different flavors of prepared flavored drink 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:
  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.

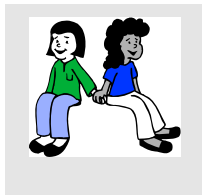
- **White Collage:** Add cotton balls, cotton swabs, white construction paper scraps, white buttons, popcorn, plastic foam packing pieces, and any other white things you can find to the art area. Encourage the students to make a white collage. Encourage three-dimensional art too!
- **Papier-mâché Snowmen:** 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!”
- **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 winter wonderland word games by using only winter words.
- Encourage the children to play "Snowman" like "Hangman" by drawing a snowman instead of a stick figure.



## 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!
- 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.



## 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 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.

WEEKLY SUPPLY LIST

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Gather the Following Items:

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

 Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

A large, empty rectangular area with a light gray background, intended for writing enrichment ideas or individual instruction.

## Sample Monthly Lesson Plan for School-Age

Area	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
<i>Special Projects</i>	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
<i>Creative Arts</i>	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
<i>Board Games</i>	Playing winter checkers, tic-tac-toe, and playing "Snowman"	Playing jacks, Chinese checkers, mitten concentration, and winter "Bingo"	Creating a winter game, doing a winter puzzle, and playing favorite games	Playing memory and having tournaments with favorite games	Playing winter checkers and tic-tac-toe
<i>The Chill Zone</i>	Making resolutions, acting out winter sports, reading about winter, 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
<i>Homework/Educational Enrichment</i>	Making "snow" words, reading about <u>Frosty</u> , 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
<i>Outdoor and Group Games</i>	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"
<i>Activity Center Options</i>	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