



# Sample Three-Year-Olds Curriculum

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# Welcome to Sample Pinnacle Curriculum™



## "Winter Wonders"

January is here, and with the new month come winter wonders that make it a thrilling time of year! With snow, ice, and frosty weather all around, 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.

Our Character Education will focus on patience, and even threes can at least learn the concept, even if developmentally they just can't wait yet! Catch your children showing little attempts at patience, and praise them for their efforts.



## 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.

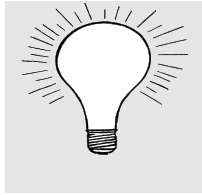
And if you don't have the white magic of snow falling in your area during the winter season, you can create your own "winter wonderland" with crafts, activities, and imagination.

As you talk about snowflakes, discuss how snowflakes, like children, are each unique. No two are 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
- To develop positive relationships with peers and adults through interactions and play

- To develop language and communication skills through 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. Spray a window with nontoxic snow spray, and create a "winter wonderland" even in warm winter climates!

 Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

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

#### "The Itsy, Bitsy Snowflakes"

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.

- Character Education – Talk with the children about being patient. Suggest that waiting one's turn is a way to show patience. Three-year-olds probably have only a limited supply of patience, so help them to find it and use it. Praise all efforts.



## 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.



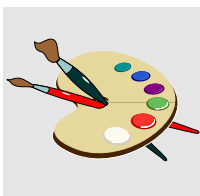
## Small Group

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 juice. 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.





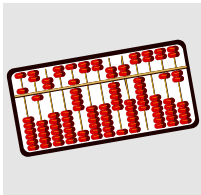
## Science/Sensory

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

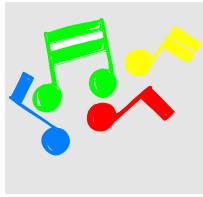
Introduce a new game today. Glue several craft sticks to a file folder. Color each stick or draw a colored dot on the end of each. Cut several freezer pop shapes from colored construction paper and invite the children to match the freezer pops to the stick of the same color.

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.



## Music/Movement

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

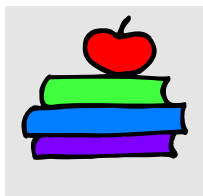
celebration.

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



## 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 (Harper Collins, 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.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM  
THREE-YEAR-OLDS  
"WINTER WONDERS"

- o Make your classroom a "winter wonderland" and celebrate "winter weather" this week!

DAILY SUPPLY LIST

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Gather or Purchase the Following Items:

Noisemakers or musical instruments	Snowman cutouts
Snowy scene pictures	Ice
Freezer pops/frozen juice	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

 Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

Empty box for Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

## Weekly Lesson Plan for Three-Year-Olds

### Sample, Week 1

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Morning Group</i>	Singing and discussing snow and patience	Singing and discussing snow and patience	Singing, doing a fingerplay, and discussing patience	Singing, doing a fingerplay, reading, and enjoying a surprise	Discussing snow, finding white objects, and enjoying a surprise
<i>Large Group</i>	Discussing cold items	Following directions on snowflakes	Discussing cold items	Discussing Jack Frost and singing	Saying a rhyme about snowmen
<i>Small Group</i>	Eating freezer pops	Reading <u>The Snowy Day</u> or winter weather book	Making paper snowmen	Blowing "snow" and making snowflakes	Making up a picture about a snowy scene
<i>Language</i>	Looking at color books	Reading in "snow"	Reading in "snowdrifts"	Retelling a winter story using flannelboard	Using flannelboard snowpeople props
<i>Creative Arts</i>	Ice cube painting	Creating white snow collages	Making snowflake pictures	Making snowy pictures	Making a snowman
<i>Science/Sensory</i>	Watching ice melt	Watching ice melt	Watching ice melt	Exploring snow	Exploring crushed ice
<i>Dramatic Play</i>	Selling freezer pops	Selling freezer pops	Making a pillowcase snowman	Making a pillowcase snowman and taking pictures	Creating a "snowstorm"
<i>Math/Manipulative</i>	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
<i>Blocks</i>	Using ice cube trays and coolers	Making snowdrifts	Making snow creations	Using small, plastic people	Using bags of ice
<i>Music/Movement</i>	Melting like ice or celebrating the New Year	Pretending to build snowmen	Playing with whipped cream "snow"	Making "snow" angels	Playing "cold snowball"
<i>Outdoor Learning</i>	Floating like snowflakes	Throwing imaginary snowballs	Bouncing "snowballs" on a parachute	Blowing bubbles	Pretending to be snowflakes while sliding
<i>Academic Options</i>	Exploring "W"	Exploring "white"	Exploring the star shape	Exploring "5"	Having a "Wild and Wacky" day