

# Circle Time Lessons

## Day 1 Introduction

Introduce the new unit: **Winter**.  
Talk about winter. Show the photos and use for discussion. Sort pictures into two groups.

## Day 2 Signs of Winter

Talk about the signs of winter and read the poem on a pocket chart.

## Day 3 It's Snowing

Show photos of snowflakes under a microscope. Investigate attributes of a snowflake. Sing "Snowflake on My Nose."

## Day 4 Winter Activities

There are lots of fun things that we can do in winter. What's your favorite winter activity?

## Day 5 Keeping Warm in Winter

Winter is the coldest season. Sort pictures into two groups. Sing the song about clothes we wear in winter.

### Winter Fun

Activate Background Knowledge

**Day 1 lesson plans**

Introduce the new unit (Winter) to the students. Bring in a few items that represent winter (mittens, sled, boots, scarf). If weather permits, bring in a bowl of snow!

**Objectives:**

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will use new vocabulary.

**Activities:**

- Show the photograph posters of winter scenes.
- Engage students in a discussion about what they know about winter.
- Sort pictures into 2 groups: Winter or Not Winter.

**Extension Idea:**  
Teach the ABC sign for winter. Hold three fingers up on each hand. Move hands in and out towards your body.

### It's Snowing

Investigating snowflakes

**Day 3 lesson plans**

Snowflakes are made up of ice crystals that fall down to Earth. Every snowflake has six sides, but no two snowflakes are exactly alike.

**Objectives:**

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will understand and use basic position words.

**Activities:**

- Show students close-up photographs of snowflakes. Engage the children in a discussion about what they notice and wonder about each picture. Tell students every snowflake has exactly six sides.
- Distribute snowflake cut-outs to each student. Have students count the number of sides on their snowflake.
- Sing the song, "Snowflake on my Nose" using snowflake cut-out to act out the motions in the song.

**Extension Idea:**  
Teach the ABC sign for snow. Put two hands up. Fingers spread apart. Wiggle fingers and move hands down like falling snow.

### Keeping Warm in Winter

Activate Knowledge

**Day 5 lesson plans**

Winter is the coldest season. We wear clothes that protect our bodies and keep us warm.

**Objectives:**

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

**Activities:**

- Sing a song of winter clothing or show picture cards.
- Discuss why we need to wear special clothing in the winter and which parts of our body each article protects.
- Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Clothing to wear in winter and clothing not to wear in winter.
- Sing the "Snow Clothes" song and have students model each item.

**Extension Idea:**  
Make geometric mittens by drawing points on large construction paper. Fold paper in half, open, and allow to dry. When dry, fold in half again and cut out mitten shape.

### Signs of Winter

All about the things we see in winter. How do we know it's winter?

**Day 2 lesson plans**

Engage students in a discussion about what happens in the winter.

**Objectives:**

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will observe objects with curiosity.

**Activities:**

- Show the photograph posters of winter scenes.
- Ask the students to look for signs of winter and identify what they see.
- Sing "Winter."
- Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Add the picture cards to help emergent readers identify each word.
- Students take turns pointing to the words in the sentence as the song is sung together.

**Extension Idea:**  
Sing "Hunt" page to go on a sensory hunt for families to do together!

### Winter Activities

What do you like to do in winter?

**Day 4 lesson plans**

There are so many things to do in the winter when the weather is cold.

**Objectives:**

- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will recognize and label their own feelings, emotions, and preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

**Activities:**

- Show photographs of winter activities. Discuss each photo.
- Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. What is your favorite thing to do in winter?
- Recite the "Winter Time" poem. Have students use their fingers to trace the words in the poem. Pretend to hold a bar.

**Extension Idea:**  
What is your favorite thing to do in the winter?

Jamal	Ruth	Nora	Siera
Kate	Jose	Anna	

# Circle Time Lessons

## Day 6 Mittens & Gloves

Mittens and gloves serve many purposes. Investigate a variety of uses. Sing "Wear the Mittens." Play the "Where's the Snowflake?" game.

**Mittens & Gloves** Day 6 lesson plans

Mittens & gloves serve many purposes. They can protect our hands from germs, injury, or the cold.

**Objectives:**

- The students will recognize and create rhyming words.
- The students will recognize letters of the alphabet.

**Activities:**

- Show the photograph posters of mittens/gloves. When possible, provide examples of mittens and gloves for the students to touch (gardening gloves, wadded mittens, leather gloves, non-latex medical gloves).
- Talk about how the type of mitten/glove depends on its purpose or intended use.
- Sing "Wear the Mittens."
- Play the "Where's the Snowflake?" Carpet Game. (Instructions attached on the mitten cut-out page).

**Extension Idea:** Teach the ABC sign for **mitten**. Washing hands, holding your body, slide dominant hand over non-dominant hand like you are putting on mittens, repeat with other hand.

## Day 7 Snowmen

Building a snowman is a favorite winter activity. Take a poll of who has built a snowman. Practice subtraction by singing "5 Smiling Snowmen."

**Snowmen** Day 7 lesson plans

Building a snowman is a favorite winter activity. Just like many things, we need to take it one step at a time. What do you think the first step might be?

**Objectives:**

- The students will arrange objects into a series.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create each set.
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.

**Activities:**

- Look at the photographs. Discuss with student their knowledge of how to build a snowman. Who has built a snowman before?
- Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to write for multiple-choice on a bar graph. Have you ever been to a snowman?
 

Yes	No
5	0

**Extension Idea:** Sing "5 Smiling Snowmen." Remove a snowman as the poem counts down.

## Day 8 Hot & Cold

Students sort pictures into 2 groups— Things that are Hot and Things that are Cold.

**Hot & Cold** Day 8 lesson plans

Opposites are a pair of words that have different meanings. Hot and cold are great examples of comparing opposites.

**Objectives:**

- The student will identify opposites (concept sort).
- The students use logical thinking skills.

**Activities:**

- Engage student in a discussion about items that are hot and items that are cold. These are opposites. Fill 2 cups with water: one warm (not too hot) and one cold. Let the students feel the opposites.
- Sort different pictures into 2 different groups: Things that are hot and things that are cold.
- Make hot chocolate! Sing the song and put the recipe in the correct order.

**Extension Idea:** Teach the ABC sign for **cold**. Tuck your elbows close to your body and stretch legs. Shake feet back and forth.

## Day 9 Hibernation

Learn more about how bears hibernate through the winter.

**Hibernation** Day 9 lesson plans

During the cold winter months, food is hard to find for some animals. This causes some animals to take a nap, or to hibernate.

**Objectives:**

- Students will apply previous knowledge about animals to explore new vocabulary.
- The students will repeat the first of a poem to develop oral language skills.

**Activities:**

- Show the photograph posters. Ask students to discuss what food each animal might eat.
- Pass out bear cut-outs and have children color.
- Recite "Sleepy Bear." As you are reading, students hold bear behind backs to show he is sleeping. When he wakes up, children bring bears out and pretend to look for food.

**Extension Idea:** With set of 5 by playing the "5 in a Cove" game. Use the paper print-outs. Hide some of the bears under the paper. Students count how many and try to figure out how many are hiding inside.

## Day 10 Conclusion

Conclude the winter unit by creating a knowledge chart. Practice logical thinking skills by playing the winter "Grid Game."

**Conclusion** Day 10 lesson plans

To conclude the unit, ask the students to describe what they have learned about winter.

**Objectives:**

- The students will discuss/express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.
- The students will use logical thinking to play the grid game.

**Activities:**

- Ask students to recall something that they learned about winter. They can draw a picture or dictate a fact on the snowball cut-outs.
- Create a class chart of all the things that the students learned.
- Recite the poem "Time for Winter."
- Play the winter grid game.

**To Play:**

- Create a grid where each square has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards. Students cover their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.

# Winter Fun

## Activate Background Knowledge

Day 1  
Lesson  
Plans

Introduce the new unit (Winter) to the students. Bring in a few items that represent winter (mittens, sled, boots, scarf). If weather permits, bring in a bowl of snow!

### Objectives:

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will use new vocabulary.

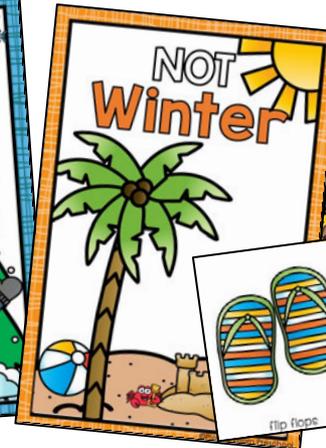
### Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters of winter scenes.
2. Engage students in a discussion about what they know about winter.
3. Sort pictures into 2 groups: Winter or Not Winter.



#### Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **winter**. Put three fingers up on each hand. Move hands in and out towards your body.



# Signs of Winter

All about the things we see in winter

Day 2  
Lesson  
Plans

Engage students in a discussion about what happens in the winter.  
How do we know it's winter?

## Objectives:

- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.
- The students will observe objects with curiosity.

## Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters of winter scenes.
2. Ask the students to look for signs of winter and identify what they see.
3. Sing "Winter."
4. Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Add the picture cards to help emergent readers identify each word.
5. Students take turns pointing to the words in the sentence as the song is sung together.
6. Use the "Winter Scavenger Hunt" page to go on a sensory scavenger hunt or send it home for families to do together!



### Extension Idea:

Ask students to bring in an item that represents winter to them. Without showing the class, the student describes their item. Classmates can guess the item based on description.



# It's Snowing

## Investigating snowflakes

Day 3  
lesson  
plans

Snowflakes are made up of ice crystals that fall down to Earth. Every snowflake has six sides, but no two snowflakes are exactly alike.

### Objectives:

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will understand and use basic position words.

### Activities:

1. Show students close-up photographs of snowflakes. Engage the children in a discussion about what they notice and wonder about each picture. Tell students every snowflake has exactly six sides.
2. Distribute snowflake cut-out to each student. Have students count the number of sides on their snowflake.
3. Sing the song, "Snowflake on My Nose" using snowflake cut-out to act out the motions in the song.



#### Extension Idea:

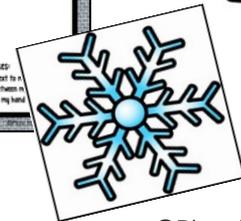
Teach the ASL sign for **snow**. Put two hands up, fingers spread apart. Wiggle fingers and move hands down like falling snow.



**Snowflake on My Nose**  
To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"

There's a snowflake  
on my nose, on my nose!  
There's a snowflake  
on my nose, on my nose!  
I caught this little flake,  
Now I give a little shake!  
There's a snowflake  
on my nose, on my nose!

**Additional Verses:**  
Behind my back    Start to v  
Under my feet    Between m  
Over my head    In my hair



# Winter Activities

What do you like to do in winter?

Day 4  
lesson  
plans

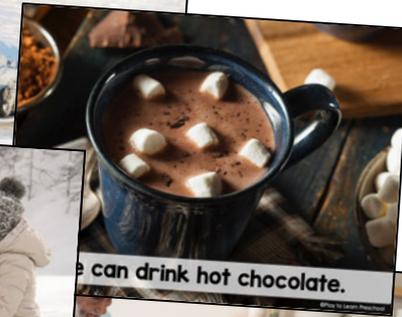
There are so many things to do in the winter when the weather is cold.

## Objectives:

- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will recognize and label their own feelings, emotions, and preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

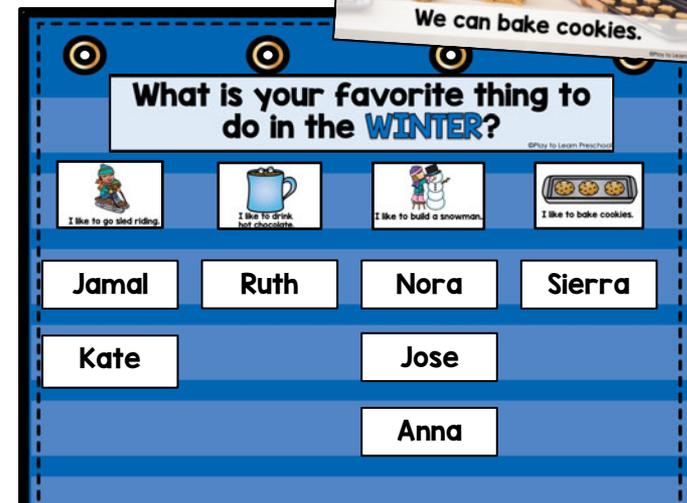
## Activities:

1. Show photographs of winter activities. Discuss each photo.
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. What is your favorite thing to do in winter?
3. Recite the "Winter Time" poem. Have students use their hands to mimic snow falling from the sky. Pretend to hold a sled and ride down the hill.



### Extension Idea:

Invite students to bring in a picture of something they like to do in the winter. Allow students to show the class their picture and discuss their favorite things.



# Keeping Warm in Winter

## Activate Knowledge

Winter is the coldest season.

We wear clothes that protect our bodies and keep us warm.

### Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.



### Activities:

1. Bring a box of winter clothing or show picture cards.
2. Discuss why we need to wear special clothing in the winter and which parts of our body each article protects.
3. Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Clothing to wear in winter and clothing not to wear in winter.
4. Sing the "Snow Clothes" song and have students model each item.



<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/symmetrical-mittens/>

#### Extension Idea:

Paint symmetrical mittens by dripping paint on large construction paper. Fold paper in half, open, and allow to dry. When dry, fold in half again and cut out mitten shape.



# Mittens & Gloves

Mittens & gloves serve many purposes. They can protect our hands from germs, injury, or the cold.

## Objectives:

- The students will recognize and create rhyming words.
- The students will recognize letters of the alphabet.

## Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters of mittens/gloves. When possible, provide examples of mittens and gloves for the students to touch (gardening gloves, woolen mittens, leather gloves, non-latex medical gloves).
2. Talk about how the type of mitten/glove depends on its purpose or intended use.
3. Sing "Wear the Mittens."
4. Play the "Where's the Snowflake?" Carpet Game. (Instructions attached on the mitten cut-out page.)



We wear mittens to keep our hands warm.



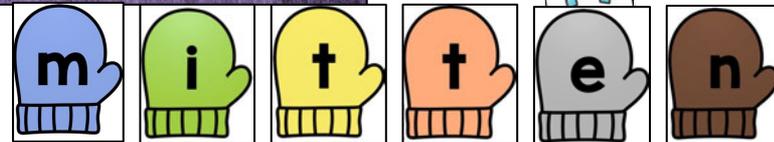
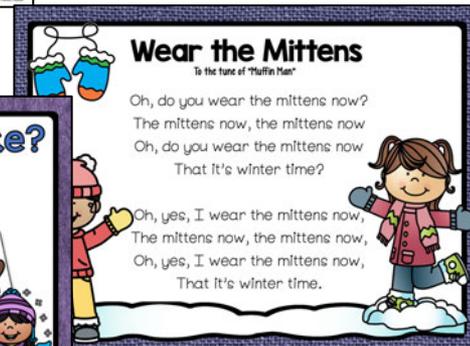
Doctors wear gloves to protect them from germs.



Gardeners wear gloves to keep their hands clean.

### Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **mitten**. Holding hands facing your body, slide dominant hand over non-dominant hand like you are putting on mittens. Repeat with other hand.



# Snowmen

Day 7  
Lesson  
Plans

Building a snowman is a favorite winter activity. Just like many things, we need to take it one step at a time. What do you think the first step might be?

## Objectives:

- The students will arrange objects into a series.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create each set.
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.

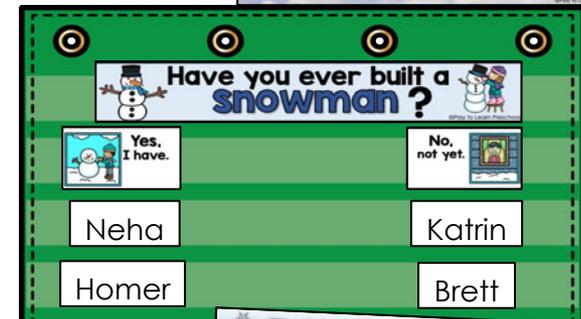
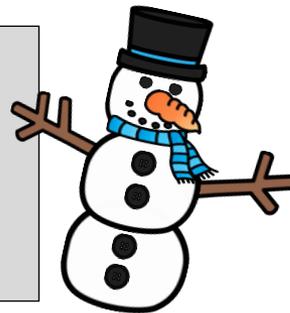
## Activities:

1. Look at the photographs. Discuss with students their knowledge of how to build a snowman. Who has built a snowman before?
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to “vote” for their answer on a bar graph. Have you ever built a snowman?
3. Recite the chip clip poem “5 Smiling Snowmen.” Remove a clip from the snow scene as the poem counts down.



### Extension Idea:

Create your own snowman. Cut out snowman shapes, then glue onto a colored background. Children can color or draw a background for the snowman.



# Hot & Cold

## Comparing opposites

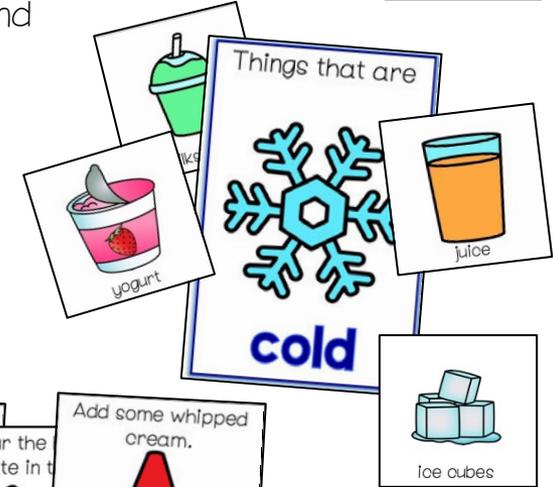
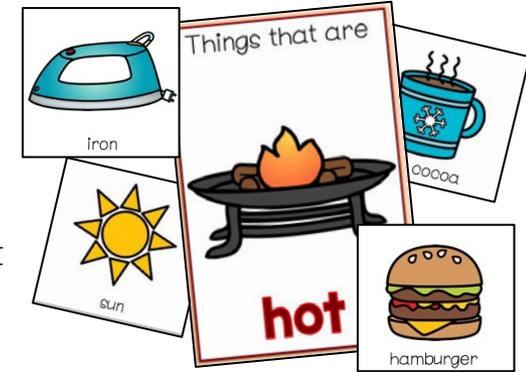
Opposites are a pair of words that have different meanings. Hot and cold are great examples of comparing opposites.

### Objectives:

- The students will identify opposites. (concept sort)
- The students use logical thinking skills.

### Activities:

1. Engage student in a discussion about items that are hot and items that are cold. These are opposites. Fill 2 cups with water: one warm (not too hot) and one cold. Let the students feel the opposites.
2. Sort different pictures into 2 different groups: Things that are hot and things that are cold.
3. Make hot chocolate! Sing the song and put the recipe in the correct order.



### Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **cold**. Tuck your elbows close to your body and clench fists. Shake fists back and forth.



# Hibernation

During the cold winter months, food is hard to find for some animals. This causes some animals to take a *big nap*, or to hibernate.

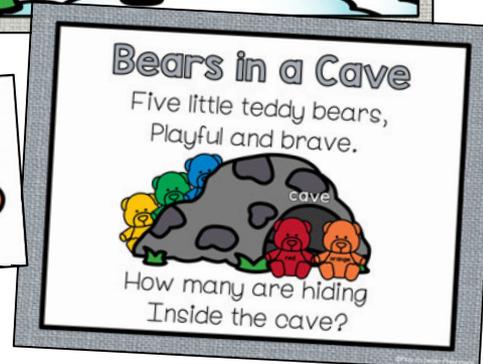
## Objectives:

- Students will apply previous knowledge about animals to explore new vocabulary.
- The students will repeat the lines of a poem to develop oral language skills.



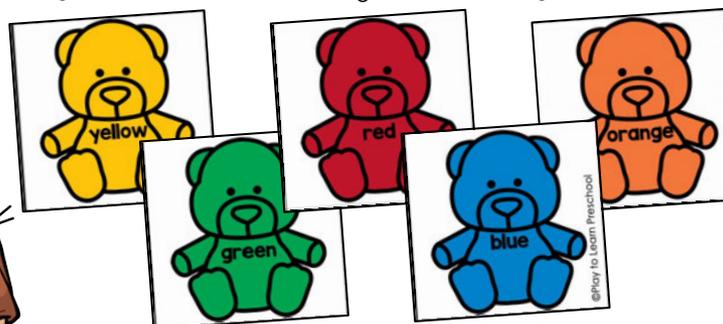
## Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters. Ask students to discuss what food each animal might eat.
2. Pass out bear cut-outs and have children color.
3. Recite "Sleepy Bear." As you are reading, students hold bear behind backs to show he is sleeping. When he wakes up, children bring bears out and pretend to look for food.
4. Work on computation with set of 5 by playing the "5 in a cave" game. Use teddy bear counters or the paper print-outs. Hide some of the bears in a cave (bowl) or under the paper. Students count how many are outside the cave and try to figure out how many are hiding inside.



### Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **bear**. Cross arms over chest. Move fingers in a scratching motion on shoulders.



# Conclusion

## Unit Conclusion

Day 10  
lesson  
plans

To conclude the unit, ask the students to describe what they have learned about winter.

### Objectives:

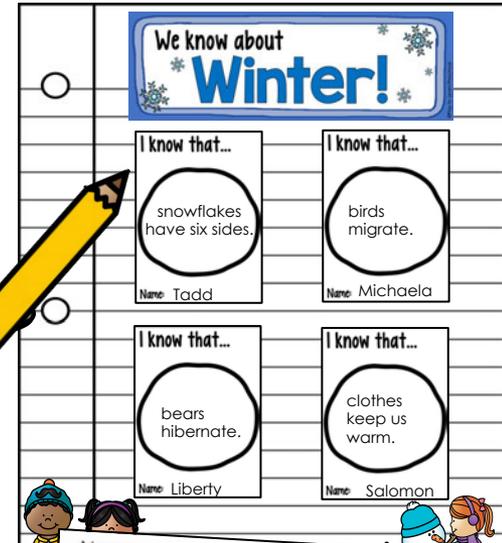
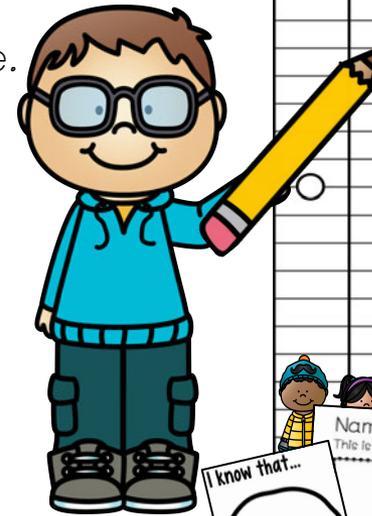
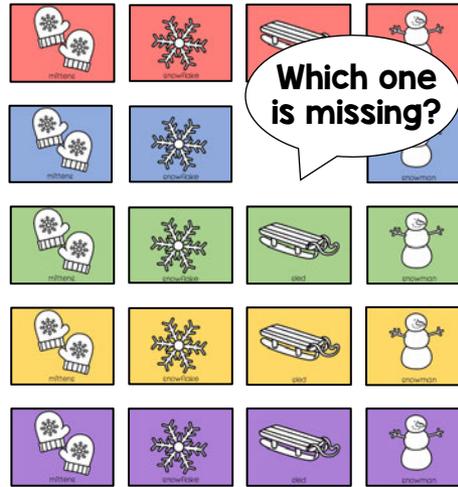
- The students will express themselves using words and sentences.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.
- The students will use logical thinking to play the grid game.

### Activities:

1. Ask students to recall something that they learned about winter. They can draw a picture or dictate a fact on the snowball cut-outs.
2. Create a class chart of all the things that the students learned.
3. Recite the poem "Time for Winter."
4. Play the winter grid game.

### To Play:

1. Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
2. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
3. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



# Centers

- Line Tracing
- Cutting Practice
- Visual Discrimination
- Writing Practice
- Picture Puzzles
- Rhyming Sort
- Rhyming Pairs
- Missing Numbers
- Count & Clip Cards
- Shape Sorting
- Book Recommendations

## Center Activities

### Line Tracing

**Fine Motor Center**

**Objective:** The students will control the small muscles of their hands and coordinate eye-hand movement. The students will use tools for writing and drawing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Trace each line.

### Cutting Practice

**Fine Motor Center**

**Objective:** The students will control the small muscles of their hands and coordinate eye-hand movement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use scissors to cut the dotted lines.

### Visual Discrimination

**Literacy Center**

**Objectives:** The students will notice similarities and differences.

**Procedure:** Print out the cards and cut to separate. Students place a mint eraser or other counter on the picture that is different.

Which picture is different?

### Writing Practice

**Literacy Center**

**Objectives:** The students will write letters. The students will copy simple shapes, letters, and words.

**Preparation:** Copy each page and place into a plastic sleeve (or print on cardstock and laminate).

**Procedure:** Students use a dry erase marker to trace the word.

tree

gloves

bear

### Picture Puzzles

**Fine Motor**

**Objectives:** The students will use hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

**Preparation:** Copy each page, mat, and laminate as desired.

**Procedure:** Students match the puzzle pieces together.

### Rhyming

**Literacy Center**

**Objectives:** The students will recognize and create rhyming words.

**Preparation:** Print, laminate and cut sorting mats and picture cards.

**Procedure:** Students say the name of the picture on the card. They decide whether it rhymes with snow, cold, or white and then place it on the correct sorting mat.

Rhymes with

Rhymes with

Rhymes with

Answer Key  
SNOW: throw, dough, now  
COLD: gold, fold, told

### Rhyming Pairs

**Literacy Center**

**Objectives:** The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes. The students will recognize rhyming words.

**Preparation:** Print, laminate, and cut mittens. Print header cards.

**Procedure:** Students name the two pictures on the pair of mittens. If they place them under the header "Words that Rhyme." If they do not rhyme, place under the header "Words that Do Not Rhyme."

Words that Rhyme

Words that Do Not Rhyme

Additional Practice  
The additional page can be used for individual practice or as an assessment.

### Missing Numbers

**Objective:** The students will identify the missing numbers from 1-10 and 1-20.

**Preparation:** Print the cards, mat, and laminate as desired.

**Procedure:** Students trace the numbers provided and fill in the missing number blanks.

Trace the numbers. Fill in the missing numbers.

Additional Practice  
Two reproducibles are included who need extra practice.

Key: For easy self-checking, put a sticker on the back that will match the clothes pin if the answer is correct.

### Count and Clip Cards

**Math Center**

**Objective:** Students will demonstrate one-to-one correspondence. The students will identify numbers. The students will count sets.

**Preparation:** Print the cards, mat, laminate, and cut apart.

**Procedure:** Students count the items on each card and mark the answer with a clothes pin.

Key: For easy self-checking, put a sticker on the back that will match the clothes pin if the answer is correct.

### Shape Sorting

**Math Center**

**Objective:** The students will identify triangles, hexagons, circles, and squares. The students will sort pictures by property (shape).

**Preparation:** Print, laminate and cut all pieces.

**Procedure:** Students choose a marshmallow and identify the shape. They match it to a mug of hot cocoa.

Additional Practice  
A reproducible sheet is included for shape practice.