

Dramatic Play Centre- Winter as a theme provides so many options for fun dramatic play ideas for the children. Set up some exciting new Winter Centres in your Day Home this month

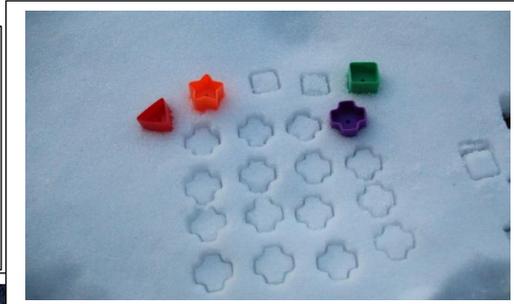
Ice Rink – The children can pretend to be figure skaters, hockey players or play a game of broom ball. *You will need:* White Contact Paper, Duct Tape, Scissors, Sharpie Pen (if you want to label the goals). Start by finding a large space to create your ice-skating rink, a soft surface is a good idea as there will be lots of slipping and sliding. Next unroll your contact paper and cut out long strips and peel the back off the contact paper and lay carefully on the carpet, after enough contact paper is laid down, smooth down all edges and bubbles. Take duct tape and tape down all the edges around your rink.

Hot Chocolate Café - This is a great opportunity for the children to practise skills such as; math, literacy, social skills, vocabulary, problem solving and thinking about their 5 senses. *You will need:* Mugs, “To-Go” Cups with lids, spoons, stir sticks, small white pom poms for the marshmallows, play food, clean empty milk containers, cash register, play money, signs and menus.

Snowman Building – Save your recyclables and put them to use for creating a winter wonderland. Cover old boxes in white paper, set out wrapping paper and paper towel tubes, construction paper cut into shapes to use for the eyes, nose, buttons and mouth. Provide hats, scarfs, mittens and watch what fun the children create. If you have many boxes, they could also create an igloo.

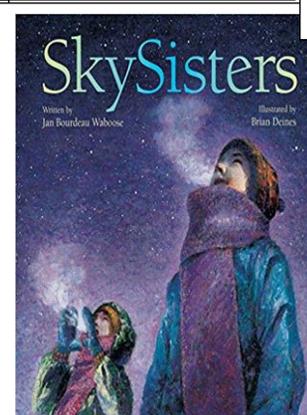
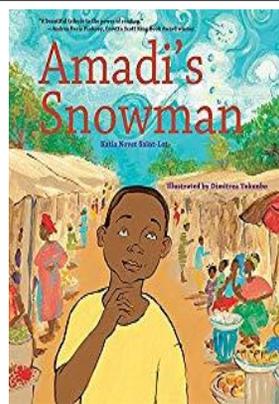


What type of environment/atmosphere does your day home have? Some things to think about as the winter months approach and there may be a bit more time spent inside -What is the lighting in your house like? Are the curtains open and is natural light allowed in? On warm days do you ever open the window to let in fresh air? Do you have indoor plants in your home? What is the temperature like? Do you often have music playing? Do you have quiet time without any background noise? Ask families in care if they have any favorite cultural music they could share. These are some things to think about to create a lovely atmosphere. Accred. Standard 3.1 d. Demonstrate respect for children’s home



Check out these wonderful books all about Winter.

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| “Holly’s Red Boots” | By Francesca Chessa |
| “Sneezy the Snowman” | By Maureen Wright |
| “Stella Queen of the Snow” | By Marie-Louise Gay |
| “Christmas Around the World” | By Mary D. Lankford |
| “Amadi’s Snowman” | By Katia Novet Saint-Lot |
| “SkySisters” | By Jan Bourdeau Waboose |
| “Snow Sounds: An Onomatopoeic Story” | By David A. Johnson |
| “The Three Snow Bears” | By Jan Brett |
| “Snow” | By Uri Shulevitz |



Creating Patterns – Often bringing indoor toys outside can create renewed interest in once pushed aside items. Using shape toys like the ones above can be an exciting way for the children to create simple and complex patterns in the snow as well as work on matching and sequencing skills.

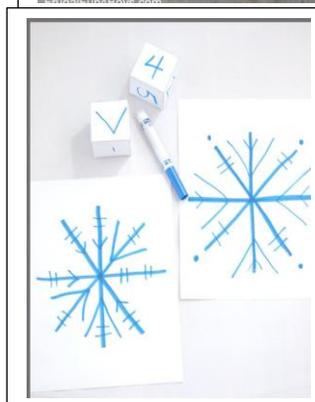
December 2019- Winter is a wonderful time to make some changes in your play centres; the shift in weather and scenery can lend itself to creating some new exciting centres inside and outside of your day home. Continue to work on strengthening relationships with the families in your care by sharing with them in the day to day activities as well as inviting them to participate when possible in special activities and celebrations. Accred. Standard 3.1 Child care programs work in partnership with families and respect their beliefs and expertise in their child-rearing role as primary caregivers.

Family Backpack Share - An exciting idea to create more **family involvement** in your day home is to make a bag or backpack that is taken home for 1 week of a certain month for each child in care. The backpack can be filled with a teddy bear, puzzles, quizzes or games for the family to enjoy together (encourage parents to take photos using their phone and share with the group on “Whatsapp” or send them to you and you can display them at a later time). Include a binder with your favorite winter celebration traditions (also common phrases or greetings if the families speak different languages) and another binder that includes your favorite holiday recipes, each family can add their favorites to the binder, to be tried with each new family. The backpack is an excellent way to instill a sense of community and appreciation within your day home for the children’s different back grounds, cultures and traditions. The backpack can go out a few times a year during different holidays and should be changed to include important holiday themed activities. *Accred. Standard 3.1 c. Respect the diversity of children and families which the program serves.*

Visit this website <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/My-Holiday-Traditions-Freebie-2219648> For this **FREE** handy sheet that could be included in your backpack!



STEM Snowflakes – Invite the children to create a snowflake on the Geoboard. Prepare ahead of time different snowflake patterns that they can try to recreate. Or, if you have a magnifying glass or microscope the children can use them to see a real snowflake magnified and could use the real snowflake as templates for their Geoboard design. Another awesome STEM snowflake activity is to create a snowflake by rolling two handmade dice (One die has numbers on it and the other has circles, lines and V’s on it). The children design a snowflake based on what they roll. Visit this excellent website for all the instructions theinspiredtreehouse.com and search for “Roll a snowflake game for kids”.



STEM Christmas Tree Stacking – There are 2 different versions of this game that you can play depending on the ages of children in your care. *You will need:* Green plastic cups, a toilet paper roll, a piece of cardboard and pom poms or other light weight decorations. For the more challenging version have the children start by stacking the cardboard on top of the toilet roll. The first level is tricky and will require the children to experiment with balance and weight distribution. Once the first level is stable the children can continue to go as high as 5 levels of cups. The slightly easier option allows the children to start stacking using a wide circular base and going as high as possible. Both versions are fun and challenging.

