NEW CANADIANS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE INC.
"Home to the World"

VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #15

EXPLORING ICE

HELLO PARENTS,

Ice is an amazing sensory play material: it is simple yet interesting, always available, versatile, and it provides unlimited learning opportunities. When children manipulate ice, they learn about temperature, texture, shapes, and colour. A simple act of melting ice is a great science experiment for children. Sensory play provides opportunities for discussions, discoveries, exploration, and learning.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

JUICY ICE CUBES

MATERIALS:

- Any kind of juice
- Ice cube tray

DIRECTIONS:

- Put juice into each of the compartments of the ice cube tray.
- Put ice tray in the freezer.
- Put the juicy ice cubes on the table in front of your infant and let them explore.

Click here for another activity with ice cubes.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

ICE EXPLORATION

MATERIALS:

- Different sizes of containers
- Small plastic animals
- Big shallow bin to put the ice in
- Water

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the containers with water and put them in the freezer.
- Take the ice out of the containers and put it in the big shallow bin.
- Add water and animals.
- Start playing and exploring.

Click here for another fun activity with ice.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

FLOATING ICE BOATS

MATERIALS:

- Plastic containers · Tape
- Sticks and twigs · Small leaves

DIRECTIONS:

- Tape a twig or stick straight up in the center of each container.
- Fill the containers with water.
- Place the containers in the freezer.
- When your child is ready to set sail (in a pool, a sink, or a bathtub), poke a leaf on top of the stick in each container to act as a sail.
- Pop the ice out of the containers and launch your boats.

Find more ice play ideas here.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

DISCOVERING WHAT ICE CAN DO

MATERIALS:

- Salt
- An ice cube
- Piece of string
- A glass

DIRECTIONS:

- Start by filling a glass to the top with cold water.
- Have your child drop an ice cube in the water and ask them questions (for example: What do you think will happen? What's happening to the ice cube? Does it sink or float?).
- Ask your child to try and pick up the ice with the string.
- Now, lay the length of the string directly on the ice cube and pour some salt on top of it.
- Wait a minute and pick up the string again.
- Experiment with the amount of salt to add. When adding too little or too much, the string does not stick.

You can see this experiment here.

Click here for more ice play activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT: WHAT MAKES ICE MELT THE FASTEST?

MATERIALS:

- Water · Sugar · Salt · 2 jars (preferably identical)
- Spoons · A timer · Paper and pen · Ice cubes

DIRECTIONS:

- Pour the exact same amount of water into each jar.
- Add 2 tbs of salt in one jar and 2 tbs of sugar in the other.
- Before adding ice cubes to each jar, predict which of the solutions will melt the ice faster and how long it will take. Record your predictions.
- Drop one ice cube into each jar.
- Set the timer and press go.
- Stir the solutions in both jars for a full minute.
- Which ice cube melted first? How much time did it take? Record the results and compare them with your predictions.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT ICE:

- Ice is the solid form of water.
- Water becomes ice when its temperature is 0°C or 32°F.
- Salt lowers the freezing temperature of water.
- Most lakes and oceans never freeze to the bottom.
- During the last ice age 11 thousand years ago, very large areas of the Earth were covered in ice and snow.

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