

Get outside Ideas!- Winter Scavenger Hunt - Create a scavenger hunt by making a list of items that the children can find outside in the snow. Items like: pinecones, birds (name a color – white birds, red birds, black birds...), bunnies, trees (evergreen, deciduous, small, large, fruit-bearing...), rocks, snowmen or icicles. If these items are hard to come by in your back yard or neighborhood you could place specific items for the children to find (a toy truck, a spatula, a shoelace). Provide the children with a clipboard and checklist for the search. Little ones can circle the items on their checklist that they have found and encourage older children to try to write out what they found.

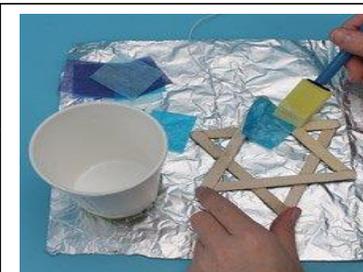
A fun way to help the children celebrate Christmas and promote reusing items is to make these cute **Snowman and Christmas Tree Box Towers**. *You will need: A variety of boxes, large white sheets of paper, green and black paint and any decorations or craft items that the children would enjoy adding to decorate their tree or dress up their snowman!* This can be an ongoing project that can be added to, taken apart and reconfigured to include other characters like Santa, an elf, a Gingerbread man, or Rudolph the red nosed reindeer.



Snowball Target Practise – Save your old tin cans (a variety of sizes), clean and sand the edges, paint the inside and write a number to indicate the # of points you win if you throw your snowball inside (like a Skee ball game). For younger children paint circles in the snow to have them work on their throwing skills.

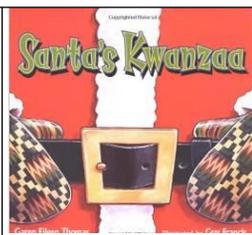
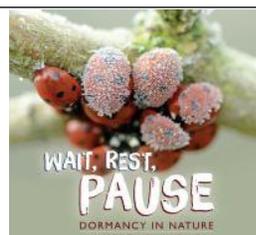
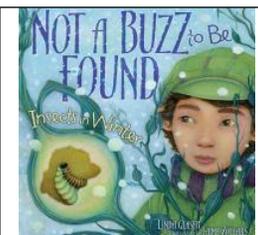


Hanukkah Tissue Paper Suncatchers- *You will need: Paint Brushes, Paint (silver, blue or white), Popsicle sticks, Blue Tissue Papers, Glue, Aluminum Foil, Scissors, Water, string, paper cup for mixing.* Have the children start by gluing two triangles shapes using the popsicle sticks. Once the glue is dry, glue the two triangles together – one with the point sticking up and the other with the point sticking down. Next, the children can paint the star and then add a string or ribbon at the top of the star so that you can hang it later. Then, lay down a piece of aluminum foil (shiny side face down) for each child to use as a work surface. Make a glue solution by mixing an equal amount of craft glue with water in the paper cup. Lay your painted craft stick shape face down on the foil. Next, have the children cut small pieces of blue and silver tissue paper and then use a foam brush to apply the glue solution to a piece of tissue paper and lay it on top of the star. Keep applying the tissue pieces until the holes in the star are covered. Allow the glue to dry and then if the children like they can thread beads through the string and then hang in the window. *Courtesy of craftprojectideas.com*



Checkout these beautiful Winter themed Books, all available at the Edmonton Public Library

- “The Snowy Nap” by Jan Brett
- “ A Loud Winter’s Nap” by Katy Hudson
- “Wait, Rest, Pause; Dormancy in Nature” by Marcie Flinchum Atkins
- “Not a Buzz to be Found; Insects in Winter” by Linda Glaser
- “Winter Sleep; a Hibernation Story” by Sean Taylor
- Daddy Christmas and Hanukkah Mama by Selina Alko
- N Is for Navidad by Susan Middleton Elya
- Santa’s Kwanzaa by Gail Eileen Thomas



Did you know -You can stream digital content from the Edmonton Public Library Stream - *Sesame Street: Season 40. Episode 3, Bears Try to Hibernate* (EPL via Kanopy Kids) - Visit - **Explore.org** to view a huge selection of animal videos. The website hosts a large collection of livestream videos of animals or highlight reels for the children to enjoy. The videos include bears, elephants, gorillas, lions, ocean life and much more.

December 2020- As the weather gets chillier discuss with the children all the ways that animals survive during the freezing months, like hibernating or migrating. December is of course the month that includes many holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve talk about and plan activities for the children that let them explore these celebrations.



Dramatic Play – Create a Bears Den for the children by using a large cardboard box, or several sturdy chairs with blankets draped over them. Discuss with the children how some animals hibernate all winter long and stay in their dens until the cold weather is over. The book *“Bear Snores On”* by Karma Wilson is a sweet story about a bear having a hard time waking up from hibernation. The children could imagine that they are bears or try to help a stuffed bear wake up when it is springtime.

Play “Snow” Sensory Bin- *You will need: 1 bag of cornstarch (about 16 ounces) and 1 cup of hair conditioner.* Mix these two ingredients together. If you find it's a little too sticky, just add more cornstarch and if you find it's too dry, add a little more conditioner. The consistency of the snow should allow the kids to make a little ball. Add animals, pinecones, twigs, a scoop and spoons to each of the children's bins.

Paper Bag Bear Cave – *You will need: Brown Paper Bag, Fluff or cotton, the children's favorite stuffed bear, Construction paper, Stapler, Scissors, Glue/ Hot glue gun, a ruler.* Begin by cutting 5 inches off the top of a large brown paper bag (if the bag is small skip this step). Next, cut a semi circle in the middle of the bag to make the door to the cave and then fold over the top and staple the top. Have the children glue fluff on the top of the den and then fold the corners of the bag inside. The children can cut out leaves from construction paper and place them inside the den. So easy and cute, the den is ready for a bear. Ask the children if they had to hibernate over the winter what would they eat to get ready and what would they bring into their den?



Animal Tracks – *You will need: White Playdoh and Animal figurines (available at Michaels, Amazon).* This is a fun animal recognition activity that helps the children learn about the different types of animals and their tracks that can be seen in the winter. Animals are all around us but, are not often seen due to them being, shy, cautious, or nocturnal. Their footprints or tracks let us peek into a hidden world that we often do not get to see. Give each child their own Playdoh and a few animals to create their own set of footprints in the “snow”. Visit this website explorationamerica.com/free-printable-animal-tracks-explorer-id-cards/ to print off a set of free animal tracks cards. The children can look and see if they recognize and match their animals tracks to the ones on the cards. When out on a nature walk encourage the children to look for tracks that are often perfectly preserved in the snow!