



HIPPY

homeroom

A Newsletter for the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
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Winter Snowman Books

- * *Snowmen at Play, Snowmen at Night, and Snowmen at Work* by Caralyn Buehner
- * *The Biggest Snowman Ever* by Steven Kroll
- * *The Itsy Bitsy Snowman* by Jeffrey Burton
- * *Just a Snowman* by Mercer Mayer
- * *Snowman Magic* by Katherine Tegen
- * *Sneezy the Snowman* by Maureen Wright
- * *Snowzilla* by Janet Lawler
- * *Snowballs I* by Lois Ehler
- * *The Annual Snowman's Ball* by Mark Kimball Moulton
- * *A Snowman Named Just Bob and A Snowgirl Named Just Sue* by Mark Kimball Moulton



State Manager Spotlight – Tyra Greenwood

Happy New Year! I hope all of our HIPPY families had a happy and healthy holiday season full of fun times and memories with loved ones.

As we get back into our normal routines of school and work, it can be hard to let go of the carefree days of winter vacation. While we can all agree, the winter break offers us all a much needed time to regroup and reset, children also benefit greatly from returning to their regular

routines. They come to look forward to that certain time each day when they do their HIPPY lessons with a loving caregiver and rely on the safety and stability that routines provide in their daily lives.

In addition, the new year brings the opportunity to start with a clean slate and reflect on what we did well last year and what we might want to work harder on in the coming year. This year brings the opportunity

to take the time to laugh more, play more, and enjoy the opportunities we have to watch our children develop and grow into amazing people. It is hard not to get caught up in the excitement that children have for playing and learning.

I hope that each HIPPY parent, this new year, takes the time to be a kid again and truly appreciate the amazing world from the eyes of their child.



Winter Safety Tips

At this time of year, with the weather getting colder and the roads becoming more dangerous with the addition of sleet, ice, and snow, it is important to take extra precautions to stay safe while continuing with your regular activities. Below are a few tips to make sure everyone stays warm and safe this winter.

Home Safety:

- * Change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke detectors that are older than 10 years should be replaced.
- * Check your furnace/heating system. Have your furnace inspected by a professional.
- * Do not store newspapers, rags or other flammable materials near a furnace, space heater or hot water heater.
- * Do not leave space heaters on when you are not in the room and keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that might burn, including walls and furniture.
- * Do not use gas ovens as substitutes for space heaters.
- * Clean out chimneys and fireplaces to prevent build up.

Driving Safety:

- * Reduce your speed to avoid slipping and sliding.
- * Allow longer stopping distances when driving

on slippery roads.

- * Steer, brake, merge, and accelerate slowly to avoid losing control of your car.
- * Beware of black ice. Slow down before intersections, off ramps, bridges, and other shady spots where black ice is likely to form.
- * Clear all snow and ice off of your car before driving so as not to limit your vision or create a hazard for cars behind you.
- * Check the tread and air pressure in your tires.
- * Make sure you have plenty of anti-freeze for your engine and de-icer in your windshield washer fluid.



Safety Items to Keep in Your Car

- * Jumper cables
- * Flares
- * Water and snacks
- * Boots, gloves, warm clothes
- * Ice scraper/ snow brush
- * First aid kit
- * Cellphone charger
- * Flashlight
- * Full tank of gas
- * Blanket



(Sources: International Association of Certified Home Inspection, wsdot.com, yovaso.org, National Safety Council)

Winter Fun– Snow and Ice

Creative Arts

Colored Ice Painting

Materials:

- Ice cube tray or small paper cups
- Water
- Food coloring
- Popsicle sticks (optional)
- White paper



Directions:

1. Fill an ice cube tray or small paper cups with water.
2. Put different combinations of food coloring in each section to create a variety of different colors.
3. ** Optional: Cover the ice cube tray in tin foil and poke a popsicle stick in each section.
4. Freeze the ice cube tray completely.
5. Remove the ice cubes from the tray, let them sit a minute so the color will be more vivid, and then, your child can use them to paint on the paper.

Math/Science

Ice Sculptures

Materials:

- Water
- Food coloring
- Empty plastic or other freezable containers (tubs, bowls, muffin tins, etc.)
- Cookie sheet (optional)



Directions:

1. Fill the containers with water and food coloring. Try to make different colors in each container, for variety.
2. Freeze the containers (either in your freezer, if there is room, or outside).
3. Once frozen, run the containers under warm water to loosen and remove the colored ice.
4. Either outdoors or on a cookie sheet, let your child experiment with trying to build different sculptures out of the colored ice shapes.
5. If cold enough, leave the ice sculptures outside to freeze together or put ice back into containers and refreeze to make new sculptures at another time.

Ice Cube Estimation

Materials:

- Ice cubes
- Cups of 2-3 different sizes (clear cups/containers if possible)
- Blank paper and pencil/crayon



Directions:

1. Place a few different cups or containers in front of your child. Ask your child to

predict how many ice cubes it will take to fill each container.

2. Write your child's predictions down on the paper.
3. Help your child to fill one container at a time with ice cubes, counting each ice cube as it is put in the container. Write the actual number of ice cubes that fit in each container next to the prediction.
4. Discuss how close your child's prediction was to the actual number of ice cubes needed. Also, talk about which container held the most ice cubes and which held the least and why that might be.

Science Extension:

- a. Once all of the cups have been filled, have your child predict how high the water will be in the cup/container once the ice cubes melt.
- b. Put a piece of tape or use a washable marker to mark the predicted height of the water.
- c. Wait until all of the ice has melted and see if your child's prediction was correct.
- d. Discuss why the water might be higher or lower than the prediction.

Igloo Building

Materials:

- Ice cubes
- Salt
- Baking sheet/pan
- Alternative: large or small marshmallows

Directions:

1. If possible, show your child igloo pictures on the internet or in a book.
2. (Resources: <http://kinooze.com/the-snow-house/>, <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/videos/howto/buildanigloo.html>)
3. Explain that your child is going to try and build an igloo, either out of ice or marshmallows.
4. Let your child experiment with different ways of stacking the "ice". He/she may want to try other materials that will help stick the ice blocks together.
5. Try sprinkling salt on an ice cube and putting another ice cube on top of it to see what happens. This should help the ice cubes stick together.



Language/Literacy

Frost is All Around

(Sung to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell")

The frost is on the roof (*point hands over head*)

The frost is on the roof (*point hands over head*)

Brr, brr it's cold outside (*wrap arms around yourself*)

The frost is on the roof (*point hands over head*)

Continue singing the following verses : *The frost is on the ground (point to the floor); the frost is on the window (make a window with your hands); and the frost is all around (make large circles with hands).*

Child question: What is frost?

Answer: Frost is a small covering of white ice crystals formed on the ground or other surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing:

Winter Hunt

Materials:

- Winter Scavenger Hunt Sheets (on back of news-letter)
- Pencil/crayon
- Optional: paper or plastic bag



Directions:

1. Based on the weather conditions, select either the outdoor or indoor scavenger hunt to complete.
2. Walk around with your child to help him/her find the items listed. Ask your child where he/she thinks the items might be found, rather than tell him/her where to find them. (problem solving).
3. Describe the items that you find: Have your child describe the size, shape, texture, etc.
4. If your child wants, he/she can collect interesting objects found on the scavenger hunt in the bag to use for later art projects or experiments.

Extension: Help your child keep track of how many of each item are found on the scavenger hunt. Ask your child which item you found the most of, which you found the least of? Have your child think about why you found more of one item than other.

(Sources: *Childfun.com, artfulparent.com, humming-birded.com, preschool-plan-it.com*)