

LET'S TALK WINTER

TOP ACTIVITIES THIS TERM

- Go on a winter walk
- These winter Gruffalo activity sheets from Forestry England will get the family outdoors and talking
- Bake some goodies!
 - Decorate the tree
 - Christmas Light walk
 - Snuggle up and read some books
 - Get creative



Signalong

Using signs is a fun way of supporting a child's communication skills. It can help to develop their attention, it develops a child's understanding of language and may help to give the child a way of communicating. Always say and sign the word together so the child can see and hear both.

Signalong have produced :

- An advent calendar which is a fun way to learn some Christmas related signs.
- There is also a youtube channel to support this, with videos to show you the signs that you need to use each day. click on the links above to find both.



Singing

Experts in child development have discovered that if a child knows eight nursery rhymes off by heart by the time they are 4 years old, they're usually among the best readers by the the time they are 8!

Sing songs with a winter theme:

- Jingle Bells
- Here we go round the mulberry bush
- I'm a little snowman
- There's a snowflake on my nose
- When Santa got stuck up the chimney





Winter Vocabulary

Did you know a child starting school will have an average vocabulary of around 5000 words. This means between the ages of one and five, children will learn around 3.5 words per day. Children need to hear a variety of different words to build sentences:

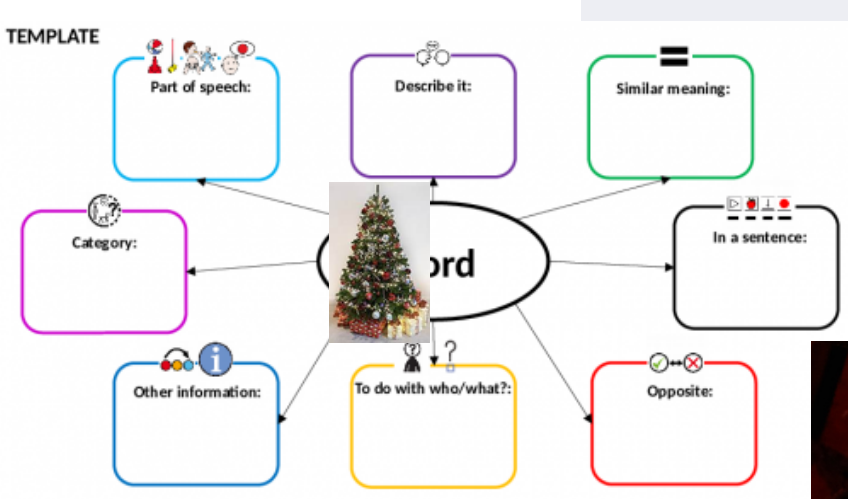
Help children to learn and recall new words by introducing them like this:

Concepts: melt/freeze, cold/hot
Winter clothing : scarf, hat, gloves/mittens, boots, coat, jumper.

Weather words: snow, rain, sleet, hail, ice, frozen, puddle, snowflake,
Winter

Nature: berries, buds, bulbs

Action words: slip, slide, skate, de-ice, warm up, wrap up (warm), freezing, melting.



Introduce this winter vocabulary by:

- The meaning of the word
- Describe the word
- Talk about how the word sounds
- Use the word in a sentence / make up a song
- Remember to note down the word and use it frequently / check to make sure it is remembered!

Winter communication board

We have included a Winter communication board in this edition. Communication boards benefit children who find it difficult to use spoken words by:

- Helping them to understand and process the word the adult has said by providing a visual support
- By slowing down the adult's rate of talking.

We show the child how they can use the communication board by pointing ourselves as we say the word/s. There is no expectation on the child to point. Communication boards are a great way of supporting a child's communication in a low pressure way.



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