

LET'S TALK *Winter*

Top Activities this term:

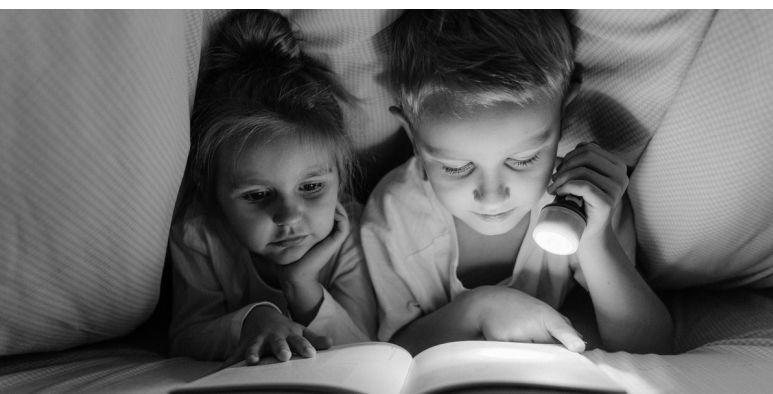
- Freeze toys in water and explore melting and freezing.
- Make a snow globe
- Find out about animals that live in cold places.
- Feed the birds.
- Snuggle up and take a quiz, or design your own!
- Go outdoors for a winter scavenger hunt.
- Make paper snowflakes

Try PEOPLE's Winter outdoor challenges.

Stories to Share

Reading to children has many benefits, including developing children's language. So... get snuggled up with some winter themed books.

- Get together any books you have at home which involve snow, snowmen, or are based in Winter. Or visit your local library and browse their collection.
- Entice children in by reading in a different location - e.g. under a blanket with a torch, under the table.



THIS WINTER SAY THE SOUNDS YOU SEE AND HEAR..

These are often motivating for children, easier to learn the meaning, and we naturally repeat them over and over (always a good thing!)

wooooo (wind) **splash splash** (in puddles)

crackle crackle (fire) **crunch crunch** (under foot)

brrrr (cold) **scrape scrape** (de-icing car)

aahhhh (warm cuddles) **drip drip** (rain)

tweet tweet (birds)

waddle waddle (penguin)



Singing

Sing songs together with a winter theme

- Five Little Snowmen
- I'm a little snowman
- The snowkey pokey
- Here we go round the mulberry bush
- Snowflakes snowflakes
- Come sing a song of winter

Use these links to learn the songs **BUT** remember to sing yourself with children - this means you can sing at their speed, change the words, and leave gaps for them to join in. There are more songs and rhymes on a Winter theme on this YouTube channel.



Learning New Words

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 (Hanen 2016)

- **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.

We've added some Signalong Winter signs [here](#)

These Winter [Gruffalo activity sheets](#) from Forestry England will get the family outdoors and talking

Find out the benefits of playing outside even in Winter and more seasonal ideas for communicating with children on the [Tiny Happy People Facebook page](#)



Curious Questions

Be curious together and start conversations with your children. Enjoy trying to find the answers. Start with "I wonder"...

- Why do some animals hibernate in Winter?
- Why are some leaves still on trees?
- Why do people celebrate Chinese New Year?
- Why do we not have snow on all cold days?
- How can we make ice/snow melt faster?

Sensory Activities

Sensory play offers lots of opportunities for communication:

- Words to describe what things look and feel like.
- Copying what the child does and says to build connection.

Try some of these winter themed sensory play ideas:

- Drive toy vehicles outside on ice or snow
- Bring snow inside into a bowl or plastic tub to explore with toys or scoops.
- Explore shiny Christmas decorations with your hands e.g. tinsel
- Collect white objects that are safe for the child's age e.g. cotton wool balls.
- Place battery fairy lights in a sealed plastic box.
- Shaving foam (white like snow!)