

Backsoul Planning	Some ideas are from "Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom, 3rd edition" by Judy Hart & Yvonne R. Libby Latta.
Date & Theme	Tuesday, January 6, 2009- WINTER
Letter/Number	At table look about the letter I sound, write the letter, find the letter around the house. O.Display I represented by moment, work, and hot stick, count the I in the house.
Language/ Literacy	Read a book about winter then hand out a journal sheet with the question on it, "What do you like to do outside in the winter? What do you like to do inside in the winter?" Record the children's responses and let them draw a picture to go along with their response.
Arts & Crafts	Frosted Pictures- Mix 1 part apron salt to 1 part boiling water and let the mixture cool. Have the children make a crayon drawing on paper. The mixture can be brushed over the picture and crystals will form as it dries. Let the children observe the crystals forming.
Cooking	Snowballs or snowpeople- chop 2 cups of raisins and 2 cups of bananas in a blender, transfer to bowl, refrigerate until cold enough to be handled. Roll can roll it into balls, then roll into some shredded coconut. They can be eaten as balls or stacked by three and attached with toothpicks for people.
Dramatic Play	Ice skating Palace- Make a masking tape border on a carpeted floor. Give each child 2 pieces of news paper to fasten to their feet, with a rubber bands around their ankles. Let the children "ice skate" while you play instrumental music for them to skate to.
Field Trip	Visit an ice skating rink to observe the ice and watch how it is cleaned. Go on a trip to a sledding hill, after it snows. Bring sleds and warm snow clothes to go sledding and play in the snow.
Group Time	Do the calendar, read books and do the activities about the letter I, number, read the book about winter and do the journal page (language/literacy), play the freeze game (large muscle), sing once there was a snowman (music).
Large Muscle	Provide child size shovels for the children to shovel the snow, or help shovel the walkway. Freeze- Play some music while the children dance, walk in a circle, hop, skip, gallop, slide, etc., when the music stops, all the children should freeze what they are doing.
Math	Read the book "Snowflake Bentley" by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and talk about how each snowflake is unique with different shapes and designs. Make paper snowflakes. Take paper squares, fold in half, then thirds, then half again. Cut designs and shapes in it. Then carefully unfold and hand them up.
Music	Once there was a snowman, snowman, snowman, Once there was a snowman fall, fall, fall (reach to the ceiling). In the sun it melted, melted, melted, In the sun it melted small, small, small. (pretend to melt down to the ground). -Children's Songbook, 249
Sensory	Go on a winter walk and have the children watch & listen for signs & sounds of winter. Signs: cold, ice, daylight shorter, darkness earlier, most trees are bare except evergreens, people wear warmer clothes, people shoveling snow or playing in it. Sounds: boots crunching, skin scratching, wind howling.
Science	Changes in temperature cause dew. When dew freezes it's called frost. Pour 2 cups of crushed ice & 1/2 cup rock salt in a tin can with no lid. Sit rapidly. Let it sit for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, the outside of the can will have dew on it. Wait longer & will change to frost, or put in freezer to speed up.
Social Studies	Read a book and discuss ways that people travel in the winter when it is cold and snowy (sled, toboggan, snowmobile, snowshoes, skis, etc.). If you have the equipment and enough snow you can let the children try some of these things outside (snowshoes, sled, skis, etc).
Extra	Catch Snowflakes- Cover some cardboard with dark felt and place it in the freezer for a while. Take it outside and let snowflakes land on it. Provide magnifying glasses for children to examine the different sizes and shapes of snowflakes.