



Welcome Baby



utah county
health department
"creating healthy communities"



United Way
of Utah County

January 2012

A Newsletter for "Welcome Baby" and "Parents as Teachers" Families

Winter Wonderland

"When snowflakes start sprinkling from the sky and icy crystals cling onto outdoor surfaces, a flurry of excitement immediately begins to fall on kids of all ages. These are simple but cool science experiments about snow and ice that will get kids interested in learning about nature's frozen wonders."

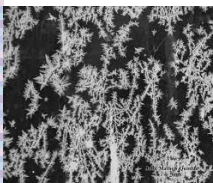
Growing & Exploding

When water turns to ice, it expands. Here is a simple experiment children can do that shows this principle:

Fill a plastic bottle with water, stopping about 1/4 inch from the top. Replace the lid and stand the bottle upright in the freezer for at least a few hours. It will appear that the bottle has exploded because of the ice.



Making Frost

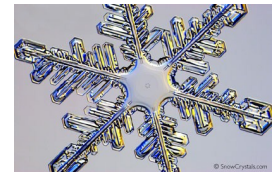


Frost can be made with an empty can, ice, and salt.

First, fill an empty can (soup can, coffee can... etc.) 2/3 full with the crushed ice. Spread about a teaspoon of water on a piece of paper and place it underneath the can. Next, fill the remainder of the can with salt and mix it with the ice. Mix the solution for a few minutes or until it is well mixed. The frost will appear on the can.

Snowflake Observation

On a snowy day, take a piece of black construction paper and catch snowflakes on it. Use a magnifying glass to observe the individual snowflakes. Ask the children to describe the differences between each snowflake.



Salt & A String

Kids can perform a "magic trick" with an ice cube, a string, and salt.

Place an ice cube in a cup of water. Cut a piece of string a few inches long and have the kids try to pick up the ice cube using just the string and not their fingers. They will see that it does not work.

Now dip the end of the string in the water and lay it across the ice cube. Sprinkle salt on top of both the ice cube and the string. Wait a minute or so and then try to pick up the ice again using just the string.



It works this time because the salt will have melted the ice and the water will have refrozen around the string.

For more easy winter experiments check out:
cocopreme.hubpages.com/hub/Easy-Snow-and-Ice-Experiments

Paper Snowflakes Instructions

- * <http://www.highhopes.com/snowflakes.html>
- * <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/snowflakes/>
- * <http://www.squidoo.com/make-paper-snowflakes>



HELP ME GROW RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT!

A recent community assessment showed that three out of ten third graders in Utah County were not reading at grade level last year. Third grade reading levels have been shown to be an indicator for many other factors of a child's future success, including likelihood to graduate from high school and the ability to earn a stable income.

United Way recently launched an education initiative called *EveryDay Learners: Advancing the Common Good* to help children from 0 to 5 years old learn to love reading. The goal is to garner 10,000 readers, tutors, and mentors within the next three years. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to become an EveryDay Learner, even if they do not have children.



Depending on circumstances and commitment levels, EveryDay Learners can volunteer formally through a school or existing education program, or informally by building personal relationships with children in order to advocate constant learning.



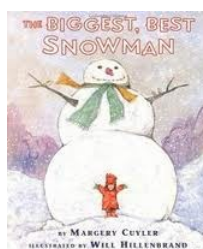
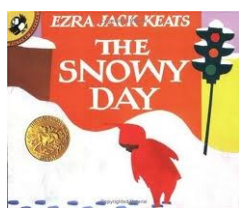
Interested in becoming an EveryDay Learner? Take the "Where do I fit in Education?" quiz on the EveryDay Learners website below. A specialist at United Way will assess your answers and help match you up with a program that will best fit you.

For more info, see: www.everydaylearners.org

Books for Snowy Days:

The Biggest, Best Snowman
Margery Cuyler

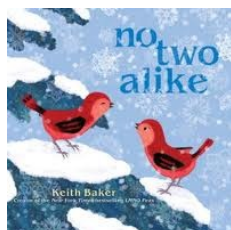
The Snowy Day
Ezra Jack Keats



Making A Friend
Alison McGhee



No Two Alike
Keith Baker



Red Sled
Lita Judge

