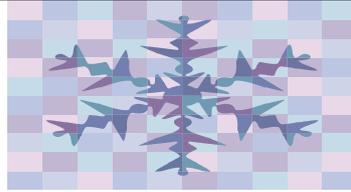


Convent of Mercy Nursery School Parent's Page

January



We will be using the theme of 'Winter' to introduce your child to different areas of learning. If you would like to follow this up at home, here are a few activities you might like to try.

TALKING

- Tell your child about the things you enjoyed doing in the 'Winter' as a child. Going for a walk, walking on the frosty ground, looking for the first signs of spring - snowdrops, the daffodils.
- Show your child any photographs you may have kept of you building a snowman or them playing in the snow.
- Discuss the signs of winter- your breath on a cold day, having to defrost the car on a frosty morning. Can they find signs of Jack Frost and talk about the need for warm clothes to keep warm.

STORYTELLING

- Visit your local library with your child to look for books which feature winter.
- Tell you child the story of the day you made a snowman.

IN THE CAR

- Discuss why the windows have to be defrosted on a cold morning- why do you use warm water or the fans. That the farmer has to bring food to the animals in the fields as the ground is too cold.
- Singing 'Here we go round the Mulberry bush'.

OUT AND ABOUT

As you go for walks look for signs of winter. Help children to notice ice patches, the bright winter sun can make shadows on the ground and early signs of spring. Encourage children to make shadows on the ground, how tall do they look and to notice the clothes people wear on a cold day. What clothes do they need to wear to be seen on a dark evening?

Activities for a cold day.

Finding signs that Jack Frost was out last night - ice!

Can they change it back into water by using their hands to hold it, by breathing on it, leaving it in the sunshine? Can you make ice cubes at home, discussing how it changes from a liquid into solid ice and then back again? What happens if you leave it by radiator in a container or add the ice to a warm drink? You can make ice decorations using a lid of a butter container; add a leaf or food colouring and a piece of string. Once it's frozen you can hang it up outside and watch it melt?

Play dough provides hours of endless fun and is very easy to make. The children can help you prepare the mixture however an adult must cook it.

4 cups of plain flour
2 cups of salt
4 cups of water
8 tablespoons of cream of tartar
4 tablespoons of cooking oil
Food colouring of your choice.

Method: add the water, food colouring and cooking oil to the dry ingredients and mix well until it is a thick fluid consistency. Cook in a saucepan over a medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture thickens up. When it is very thick remove from the heat and knead well while still warm. Leave to cool, turning it over and knead. Store the dough when cold in an air tight container - it can last over a month.