A ONE-WEEK LEARNING PACK FOR AGES 3–5

Winter Discovery Week

5 days of circle time, centers, art, and movement
for home daycares and small child care programs



Counting 1–5 (to 10) · Shapes & patterns · Oral vocabulary · Color + ink-saver

Pilot Edition v0.9 · 28 pages · US Letter · Full color · © 2026 Jackson Miller

EDUCATOR GUIDE

Welcome, How to Use & Contents

Winter Discovery Week is a complete five-day plan for mixed groups of children ages 3 to 5. Everything is about winter weather, animals, clothing, and shapes, with no holiday or religious content, so it fits any program from December to February.

A typical day

- **Circle time**, 10–15 min: a short read-aloud story and talk prompts
- **Math center**, 10–15 min: hands-on counting, matching, or sorting
- **Literacy center**, 10 min: oral vocabulary and sound games
- **Art & fine motor**, 15–20 min: low-cost paper projects
- **Movement**, 5 min: a calm, indoor-friendly movement game

Mixed ages

Each day plan has a **Simpler** idea (often right for younger 3s) and an **Extension** (often right for older 4s and 5s). Choose by what each child is ready for, not by age alone. Printed pages are tools for play and talk, not tests. Tracing and the pattern strips are optional.

Printing

Print on US Letter paper at **100% / Actual size**. The color file and the ink-saver file have the same pages and page numbers. Cardstock or sheet protectors make cards last longer but are optional. Send the family letter (p. 27) home on Day 1.

What is inside

- 5 educator day plans and a week-at-a-glance
- 5 original read-aloud stories + 1 counting rhyme
- 12 vocabulary cards · 10 number cards · 6 movement cards
- Counting mat, 16 paper counters, 12 mitten cards
- 2 sorting mats, shape builder, shape hunt, 2 optional pages
- Family letter, answer keys, terms of use

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Week at a Glance

Pick and choose; every activity is optional



	DAY 1 Snowflakes Everywhere	DAY 2 Mittens & Patterns	DAY 3 Animals in Winter	DAY 4 Ready for the Cold	DAY 5 Snowman Shapes
Words	snow, snowflake, cold, soft, float, fall	mitten, pair, same, different, match, pattern	bear, rabbit, owl, den, rest, awake, big, small	coat, hat, scarf, boots, mittens, warm, first, next, last	circle, triangle, square, rectangle, side, corner, round
Circle time	The Quiet Snowfall + counting rhyme	The Mitten Basket	Who Is Awake in Winter?	Ready for Outside	Shapes in the Snow
Math	Snowflake Count (pp. 15, 17, 18)	Mitten Match & Patterns (pp. 19–20)	Big & Small Sort (p. 21)	Snowball Toss Count (Scrap paper, a basket; p. 15–17)	Shape Hunt (p. 25)
Literacy	I Spy /s/	Mm Mitten Game	Beginning Sound Sort	What Do I Wear?	Winter Words Chart
Art & fine motor	Torn-Paper Snowfall	My Mitten Design	Cozy Den Picture	Paper Scarf Weave	Snowman Shape Builder
Movement	Snowflake Twirl	Pattern Stomp	Animal Moves	Get Dressed!	Melting Snowman
Big idea	Counting 1–5 with one touch per object	Same, different, and simple AB patterns	Comparing size; hearing first sounds	Sequence words; counting a collection	Naming shapes; sides and corners

Before the week starts

- Skim the safety and inclusion notes (p. 5) and decide which optional pages fit your group.
- Read the five day plans (pp. 6–10) and the stories (pp. 11–12).
- Print and cut the cards using the prep list (p. 4). Adults pre-cut pieces for children who are not yet using scissors.
- Copy the family letter (p. 27) for each family and fill in your program name.
- Clear a movement space and set up a center basket for each day.

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EDUCATOR GUIDE

Educator plan

Day 1: Snowflakes Everywhere

Today's words: snow · snowflake · cold · soft · float · fall

Prep today: Cut number cards 1–5 (p. 15) and 16 counters per child (p. 18); print the mat (p. 17). Gather white scrap and dark paper.

Circle time

10–15 min

- Read **The Quiet Snowfall** (p. 11). Each time snow falls in the story, children whisper "shhh."
- Ask: "What did Nia see out the window?" "How do you think snow feels?" (cold, soft, wet)
- Ask: "Have you seen snow? If not, what is winter like where you live?" Every answer is welcome.
- Show the **snowflake** card (p. 13). Count its arms together: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
- Say **Five Little Snowflakes** (p. 12). Five children hold number cards 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and sit down as each snowflake floats away.
- Transition: "Snowflakes, float to your center!" Children tiptoe quietly to their spot.

Movement: Snowflake Twirl

Card on p. 26

Hum or play calm music. Children twirl slowly, arms out, and float down. When the music stops, freeze, then land gently on the floor. Seated option: twirl hands above the head.

Math: Snowflake Count

Pages 15, 17, 18

1. Child picks a number card 1–5.
2. Touch and count the snowflakes on the card, one touch for each.
3. Place the same number of paper snowballs in the top row of the mat, starting at the left.
4. Count again to check and say the total: "Four snowflakes, four snowballs."

Literacy: I Spy /s/

Pages 13–14

Lay out 6 picture cards. Say: "I spy something that begins with /s/." Children stretch the sound as they point: "sss-snowflake," "sss-snowman." Then let a child be the spy. Say the sound /s/, not the letter name. Accept any close try.

Art: Torn-Paper Snowfall

Dark paper, white scrap paper, glue stick

Children tear white paper into **big pieces, about the size of their palm**, and glue them on dark paper as falling snow. Add a crayon cloud or tree. Tearing builds hand strength. Collect leftover scraps right away.

Simpler

emerging / younger 3s

Use cards 1–3 only. Count aloud while the child touches each snowflake. Start each tear with a small snip so it is easier to rip.

Extension

ready / older 4s & 5s

Use cards 6–10 (p. 16) and the full ten frame. Ask: "Which card has more? How do you know?"

Look for

informal notes

One touch for each number word (one-to-one counting). Says the last number to tell "how many." Joins in with the rhyme.

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MATH

Find the mitten with the same pattern. 6 pairs = 12 mittens

Mitten Match Cards (6 pairs)



✂ *Cut on the dashed lines. Small letters are for the answer key only.*

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MOVEMENT

Movement Cards (6)

Use any time · clear a safe space first

Snowflake Twirl



Twirl slowly with arms out. Float down and land softly.

Seated: twirl hands up high.

Bear Walk



Hands and feet on the floor. Walk slowly and heavily like a big bear.

Seated: slow, heavy arm steps on knees.

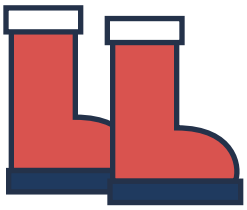
Bunny Hop



Feet together. Three small hops, then freeze and wiggle your nose.

Seated: hop fingers along legs.

Big Boot Stomp



Stomp, stomp, clap! Repeat the pattern three times.

Seated: stomp feet under the chair.

Melting Snowman



Stand tall and still. The sun comes out… melt slowly to the floor.

Seated: start tall, slowly slump.

Owl Look-Around



Stand still. Turn your head slowly left, then right. Blink big owl eyes.

Calm-down card: breathe in, breathe out.

✂ *Cut on the dashed lines*

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