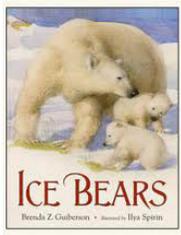


Melting ice floes

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Explain to your child that you are going to make some ice together and then see what happens when you put it in water.
- ❖ Make some ice together using ice cube trays and small containers of different sizes and shapes. Talk about how much water to put in each container to make ice blocks of different sizes.
- ❖ Help your child carefully place the containers in the freezer. Predict which containers will freeze first and last. Check the containers from time to time until all are frozen.
- ❖ When all the containers are frozen, take out the ice and float the pieces in water in a dishpan or sink. Compare what happens with the different shapes and sizes.
- ❖ Talk about changes you see as the ice melts. Predict which ice floe will melt first and which will last the longest. Encourage your child to guess why this happens.

A good read-together book



Ice Bears by Brenda Z. Guiberson

You will need containers of different shapes and sizes that you can put in the freezer, and a sink or plastic tub for floating the ice blocks.

This activity helps children learn to observe, predict and compare, and to think like scientists about how and why changes happen.



Hints for success

- ❖ Let your child help you choose the containers. Talk about their shapes.
- ❖ Make sure each container is as wide at the top as it is at the bottom so the ice can be removed easily.

Which ice floe do you think will last the longest?

Oh look! The smallest one has almost disappeared!

Ways to say it

More ideas for Melting ice floes

Try this way

- ❖ Add small boats to the water and put plastic animals and people on the ice floes. Encourage pretend play about their adventures.
- ❖ Experiment with melting ice floes in cold and warm water. Compare how quickly the ice melts.

Early literacy

Look for **Fox on the Ice** and other picture books about life in the north that you could read with your child. Talk about what it would be like to live in a very cold climate.

Book links

A Symphony of Whales by Steve Schuch

Fox on the Ice by Tomson Highway

