



The Ice Factor

There is nothing better on a hot summer day than to try and get cool. Allowing children to play with ice is an excellent way for them to find a little relief and provides many learning experiences. Through different activities using ice, your child can build their problem solving, critical thinking, language, and fine motor skills as well as learn about math and science. A few ideas/activities might include:

Painting with Ice:

- Fill an ice cube tray with water. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water. Place the ice cube tray in the freezer. Once the ice cubes are partially frozen (about a half-hour), insert a toothpick or popsicle stick into the center. Allow the ice to freeze completely. Remove the ice from the tray. Allow your child to paint on paper or the sidewalk with the "ice paint."



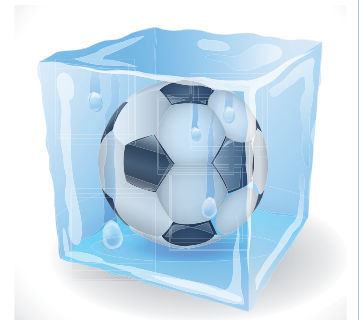
Ice Fishing:

- Add water to a plastic container, cooking pot, or roasting pan. Add ice cubes. Show your child how they can catch the ice with a kitchen ladle or tong. Give your child the spoon or tong. For an additional twist, add colored ice cubes.



Melting Ice:

- Add water to different size plastic containers. Before freezing, add a plastic animal or another object. Allow it to freeze. Remove the ice blocks from the plastic container by turning them upside down and running warm water over the bottom. Allow your child to experiment with different ways to rescue the animal or object. Ideas might include: placing the ice in the sun, pouring warm water over the ice, or adding salt. What other ideas might you and your child have to rescue the animal or object?



References: Science Fun for Everyone. *Ice Fishing*. <http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/ice-fishing/> Scholastic Staff; *Water Works*. <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/kids-activities-and-printables/activities-for-kids/math-and-science-ideas/water-works.html>;