



Winter Outdoor Classroom

January 2021

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, and snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."
- John Ruskin

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**Bad weather
always looks
worse through
a window.**

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What do you remember about playing in the winter?



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What are your thoughts on the connection between playing outside and co regulation?



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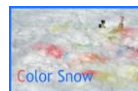
How do you plan for your outdoor classroom?

- Understanding of your program philosophy regarding outdoor play
- How do you document progress , planning and implementation, and evaluate your outdoor time



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Opportunities that children have outdoors that they don't have indoors?



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Play Value

- Open ended
- Challenge in safety
- Developmental appropriateness
- Invitation
- Surprise
- Layers of experience
- Exploration of the natural world
- Space to move in
- Freedom to make noise
- Freedom to create on a grand scale
- Freedom to make a mess
- Unstructured time
- Freedom to choose activities and the friends to do them with
- Freedom to be away from it all



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Benefits of Outdoor Play

- Physical activity, motor development, strengthening
- Challenge themselves mental and physical
- Risk taking, learn limitations
- Learning about their world
- Encourages exploration, experimentation
- Creativity and imagination
- Learning about self & environment
- Enhances social interactions, builds relationships
- Reduce excess energy
- Supports critical thinking



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What learning opportunities are specific to winter play?



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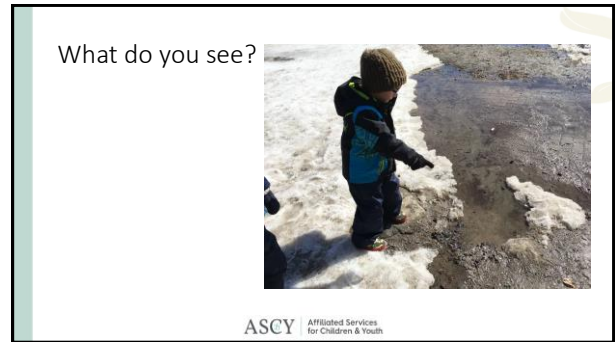


Observe

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Considerations for the outdoor classroom observe for:

- Amount of time children spend outdoors
- Types of activities in which children are engaged in and the frequency/duration with which they engage in them
- Quality of children's outdoor play and educators interactions
- Hacks you have for the outdoor program and being outdoors

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Winter Outdoor Classroom Part 2

February 2021

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Outdoor Winter Classroom

- Develop a vision of how you would like your outdoor classroom to:

- Look
- Feel
- Operate

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What is your favorite memory of playing outside in the winter?

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What do you think is happening?
How would you enhance this play?



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How can we make it possible for this activity or feature to be
safely offered?



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Freedom of movement



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What are loose parts?

Materials with no specific set
of directions and they can
be used alone or together with
other materials

They can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken
apart and put back together in multiple ways



Draw in
Snow

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Light

Loose parts for winter play



The Value of
Creating
Snowmen



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When we get a thick snowfall, it obscures the familiar playground objects. Children can reinvent or guess what's under the white bumps in the yard. It becomes a treasure hunt in your own yard!



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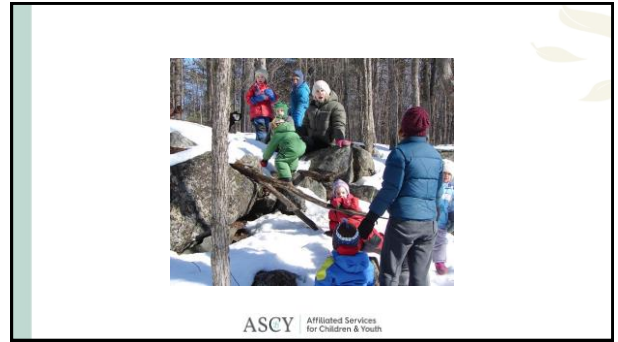
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Websites

<https://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/50-outdoor-things-to-do-with-your-kids-in-winter>

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