a Place of our own

Art with Salt and Ice

Skills Learned: Critical Thinking Skills, Language / Literacy, Fine Motor Skills, Observation Skills, Science Skills

A mini science lesson in which children will predict and then observe the effect salt has on blocks of ice. Then by adding drops of food coloring they will create colorful sculptures!

Supplies

- 1/2 gal. cardboard milk carton (empty) – 1 per child
- Water – enough to ?ll cartons
- 1 small pkg. Rock Salt – available at the market
- Food coloring – several colors
- Eye droppers – available at drug stores – 1 for each color
- Plastic or aluminum containers (to hold blocks of ice)

Directions

DAY 1

1. Tell the children that you are going to do a science project with salt and ice.
2. Ask where ice comes from. Can we make it? How?
3. Give each child an empty half gallon milk carton.
4. Together, fill the cartons with water.
5. Freeze overnight.

DAY 2

6. Ask the children how they might get the ice out of the cartons. Encourage the older children (4-5yrs) to try. Encourage them until they succeed.
7. After the blocks of ice are freed, stand them upright in plastic or aluminum containers.
8. Instruct the children to sprinkle rock salt on the ice blocks. What happens?
9. After the salt has had its effect, (explain that the salt has had a "chemical reaction" with the ice) allow them to squeeze food coloring onto their sculptures with the eye droppers.

The food coloring will run through cracks in the ice, which the salt has caused, creating unique ice sculptures. Encourage the children to discuss what they see happening as they add the food coloring. You may want to take a Polaroid or digital photo of each sculpture before it melts away.

Tips For Mixed Ages: For younger children, handling the eyedropper will be a challenge. Show them how to use it and encourage them to keep trying until they succeed. 2's and 3's will not have developed the motor skills to be able to take the ice out of the cartons by themselves, so you'll need to assist them.

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