

Ice Exploration

Ice is truly amazing when you take a closer look. It is cold, wet, comes in different shapes and sizes, and contains cracks and bubbles hidden inside. Perhaps the most impressive quality is how it transforms back into water. As children explore a block of ice they are inspired to work as scientists asking questions and searching for answers.

In *The Wonder Cabinet*:

Today, *The Wonder Cabinet* is providing a sensory experience. Children will have the opportunity to explore ice (how it feels, looks, and melts). They can touch the ice, sprinkle salt onto it and drip liquid watercolors into the cracks and crevices. As they explore they will discover the physical properties of ice and how their actions can effect how the ice transforms. This sensory activity can also be a unique exploration of light and color – both of which play an important role in works of art.

When children are ready for more challenges, they can choose items from our extension baskets (flashlights, brushes, eye droppers, scrapers, etc.) to make new discoveries as they continue to explore.

At Home:

Ice exploration is a wonderful sensory activity to do at home. It is easy for children to help make blocks of ice using recycled containers. Once frozen, the possibilities are endless: try to make a hole in a frozen water balloon, look at crushed ice with a magnifying glass or see if an ice brick will sink or float.

Suggested materials:

- Ice (any shape and size)
- Tray or tub
- Flashlight
- Salt
- Magnifying glass
- Paintbrushes
- Plastic eye dropper or turkey baster
- Food coloring (or watercolor paints)