



During this learning experience, a child attempted to move a big snowball used her hands to push it, and kick it with her feet. However, the big snowball was too heavy. She was not able to move it to somewhere else. Another child saw it and came over to help, but still they cannot move the big snowball. The teacher asked, "The big snowball is heavy, how about the small snowball?" A Child answered, "We can bring the small snowball over here". In this activity, children were learning to use different ways to problem solve.



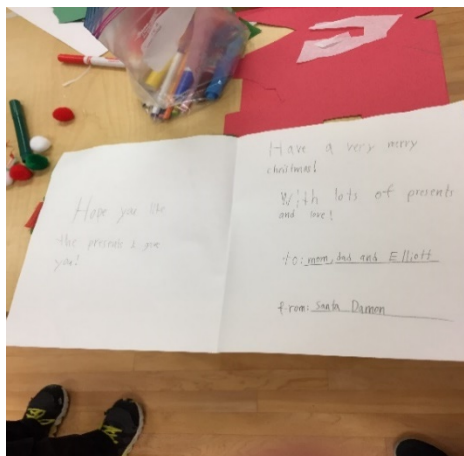
Learning Experiences: Holiday Crafts

Paper Plate Christmas Tree
Pine Cone Christmas Tree
Christmas Card
Christmas Cracker

During the month of December, we asked the children what makes the Holidays special. They answered with Christmas presents, Christmas Tree, Christmas card, and Santa Claus. With these answers, we helped them find activities that matches their answer.

During these learning experiences, children created their own Christmas cards by drawing and gluing different materials such as pompom, small beads, and craft tissue paper. They wrote down a short message to wish their loved ones a Merry Christmas. While the children wanted to bring in a real Christmas tree, we suggested to them to create their own with their creativity. They responded well to this by making their own versions of Christmas trees with different materials such as pine cones and paper plate.

The idea of the Christmas cracker came about when one of the children mentioned it as their household tradition. They would have a family dinner and during it, Christmas crackers would be shared and opened by the different family members. Some children were not familiar with the Christmas cracker but were excited with learning and making their own.



Learning Experience: Rescue animals trapped in ice



In this activity, the children had the opportunity to observe how ice melts by adding salt and warm water. The idea came from the children when they observed the snowy landscape outside and wondered what happens to animals that didn't get back to their homes before being frozen.

The children guessed they would be able to get all the animals out in one day. However, it took several days for this task to be completed. On the first day, the children applied salt to the outer shell of the iceberg, watched as they poured water on it and waited for the ice to melt. At the end of day one, they were able to see a few animals sticking out from the iceberg but could not get them out because part of

them are still frozen inside.



By day two, the children had a better understanding of what they need to do to unfreeze the animals and they got to work. By the end of day two, after mixing salt, warm water, and some wiggling, they were able to free five trapped animals. At the end of day three, they were able to rescue all the frozen animals, cleaned and returned them to their bin.

The children learned salt helps ice to melt faster by lowering its melting point. They also learned to use teamwork and delegate tasks to different members to help accomplish tasks more effectively.

