

Outdoor Play Kit Suggestions

Try building, creating, and exploring outdoors with some of these items.

Mason Jar Lantern

Celebrate the winter and spring evenings with a homemade lantern. Sometimes our days are busy with school, daycare, work and meals. Although Winnipeg evenings start early, that doesn't mean we can use the time to play! Build, decorate, and practice fire safety by building your own lantern.

- Poke 10 holes in the top of the mason jar lid with a fork, scissors, or a knife. Attach the pipe-cleaner by wrapping it around the top of the lid.
- Let your children decorate the outside of the mason jar. Colour, paint, glue magazine images down!
- Practice lighting the tea light as a family. This is a great time to talk about fire safety!
- Light a match, drop it in the mason jar and take it for a walk.

Balloons

Balloons are a great way to practice catching, especially for small ones. However, they also make awesome ice molds. Fill them up with water, dye the water inside them and you have yourself some ice gems. Decorate them with food colouring or sparkles provided in the kit. You can naturally dye the balloons with spices, tea, vegetables (beets).

These are great for curling, building, and practicing pushing and pulling.

You can also use balloons as a stress ball. Fill the balloon with flour and tie it up. This is a great sensory tool.

Ice Cube Tray

Practice building inside or outside by making ice building blocks. Colour them, add sparkles, and freeze. Ice cubes can be used to build towers, miniature forts for your figurines, and are an excellent tool for acquiring fine motor skills.

Freeze the ice cubes with a string and food colouring. Use them to paint!

In the spring, create your own smoothie ice cubes! Freeze with popsicle sticks for an easy way to enjoy them.



Pie Plates

As a family collect nature items outdoors. Go for a walk and collect pinecones, needles, leaves, dry plants or whatever you find interesting. Freeze them overnight with water and a piece of string in your pie plate. Once frozen, pull it out of the ice tray and hang it for the sun to catch.

Pie plates are also an excellent container to use inside your kitchen for your ice cube building blocks.

Bird Feeders

With the provided bird seed, your family can make their very own birdfeeder! Use recycled materials such as egg or milk cartons or milk jugs. Cut spaces, such as small doors or windows into the recycled material. It's helpful to cut "flaps" into the material so the bird has a spot to stand while it eats! Hang the bird feeder with the provided string, decorate it, and hang it outdoors!

Take it to your favourite park bench, front yard, or balcony! How many different birds come to visit?

Painters Tape and Cotton Balls

Practice your snowball throwing indoors. Attach the tape to the wall with the sticky side facing outward. Practice your underhand, overhand, and trick throws with the cotton balls! Once you've mastered your throwing skills take a few steps backward or even go outside. Who can throw a real snowball the furthest?

You can also use the tape to create an indoor obstacle course. String the tape between chairs, walls, and door frames. Encourage your family to go over and under the tape. Who can get through it the fastest? Who can do it with a stuffed animal on their head?

Colourful Plastic Bucket

A plastic container can be used as a basketball net, a storage spot for your socks, or you can fill it up with snow! Bring winter indoors on those really cold days. Fill up the bucket with some snow, lay towels or sheets on the ground and put on your gloves. Push toys, buttons, etc. deep into the snow filled bucket. Try and get all of the items out using different kitchen utensils.

