

Theme: Winter Fun

Date: December 8, 2021

Hello StrongStart families,

Just a reminder that **all StrongStarts will be closed Friday December 10th.**

As we start to feel the cold air and anticipate some snowy fun, we must get ready for the cold! We need a hat to keep our heads warm, a coat to keep our bodies warm and of course, some mittens! Let's start with a mitten craft.

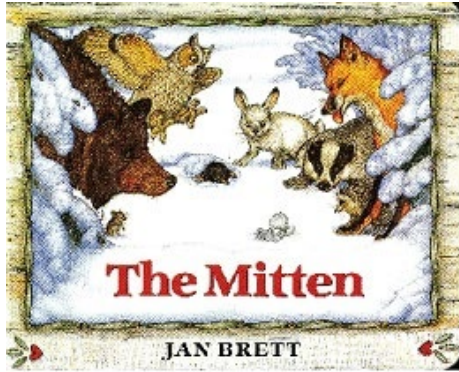


Materials: draw or print out mitten templates (see attached PDF), markers and crayons, scissors, some string/yarn, decorative supplies like stickers, cotton balls or ribbons.

Instructions:

- Cut out the mitten template.
- Decorate the mittens.
- Attach the mittens together with a string or yarn.
- Hang them up by the window for all to see!
- Extension: Make a pair for each of your family member.

Now, that our hands are warm with our mittens, let's join Ms. Cindy for a short circle and a reading of "The Mitten" by Jan Brett - [https://youtu.be/UGapKDo\\_6Ls](https://youtu.be/UGapKDo_6Ls)



While we are waiting for a snow day, let's try this fine motor and counting snowman activity.



Materials: clear bottle, white cotton balls or pom poms, sharpie marker, googly eyes, tongs and a spoon (optional)

Instructions:

- Have children put cotton balls/pom poms in the bottle until it's full.
- Count them as your child puts them in.
- For older children, ask them to group in 2's, 5's or 10's before putting them into the bottle.
- You can use fingers (pincer grasp), tongs or spoons.
- Draw a face on the bottle or glue on googly eyes. You can decorate with pipe cleaners, buttons, etc.
- Expand their vocabulary with winter language like "cold", "snow" or "scarf".

If there's still no snow outside, you can make your own "snow" inside for sensory play.



Materials: 1 cup of baking soda, 1 cup of cornstarch, water

Instructions:

- Mix baking soda and cornstarch together.
- Add water, 1 teaspoon at a time.
- Mix it until it reaches desired consistency (e.g., firm enough to make a snowball).
- Add winter animal figurines to make a snow scene for storytelling. If you don't have any, use natural materials (e.g., sticks, rocks and leaves) to make an animal home.
- Keep the snow in an airtight container. Add a little bit of water if it dries. It should last for 1-3 days.
- Hurry! Can you make a snow family before they melt?

What can you do on a snow day? Join Teacher Evina for some songs and a story called "Surprise! Snow Day!" by Courtney Baker - <https://youtu.be/1E2Nc2UGTnk>



