**Play Theme Planner**

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| **Play Theme**: Winter | | | | | |
| **Theme Building**  **(Days 1 – 3)** | **Introduction to Theme (Books/Media/Virtual Field Trips)**  Winter Books (especially The Mitten & The Snowy Day)  Videos of winter sports  Outdoor experiences (if weather permits) | | | **Theme Building Child Activities (prop & setting making, etc.)**  Signs, scenery, fish, hot chocolate, sleds, fireplace | |
| **Centers** | **Roles & Role Props**  **(Tags, dress-up)** | **Scenario Framework**  **What Happens in Center?** | **Action Props & Role Supports** | **Story Problems-Emotional Terrain** | **Literacy & Math Elements** |
| **Dramatic Play:** Home/lodge | Family members  Sweaters, pj’s, slippers, innkeeper, lodge guest, ornaments, clothesline, stockings, holiday cards, felt multicultural holiday traditions, Marshmallows | Bake cookies, Make cocoa, Build fire, Read stories in front of the fire, Watch TV, Roast marshmallows, Get Ready for bed. | Oven, Fireplace, Baking supplies, Books, TV, Phone, Marshmallows, Pajamas, | Can’t start fire  Children won’t get ready for bed  Can’t decide on story  No cookies  Marshmallows burnt or fell in the fire  Hot chocolate is to hot | Books/Reading stories, Recipes, Count Marshmallows |
| **Blocks:** Winter Olympics/Games | Participants, judges, spectators, medals, games, sleds, skiis, skates | Skiing, Toboggan riding, Judging, Award ceremony | Skis, Sleds, Medals, Pennants, Score, Sign, Torch, Podium Stand | Accident on course  Judges can’t decide who won, ski broke, judge is sick. | Time, Distance, Scores, Medal count, Signs, Books. Places (1st, 2nd, 3rd ). |
| **Science:** Winter in the Woods/Hibernation | Family members,  animals, forest ranger  animal ears/tails, forest visitor, caves, bird feeders, fish for bears, fire pit, sticks, marshmallows. | Make igloo, make/follow animal tracks in snow, camouflage, rescue, make caves, hang bird feeders, make smores | Materials for igloo, “Snow”, Materials for making tracks, Materials for camouflage. Bird feeders and caves, material for smores. | Can’t build igloo  Accident: Need to be rescued  Can’t find animals  Injured animal  Act out The Mitten | Book: The Mitten  Walkie-talkie – call for help, Ranger writes report, Sort/classify tracks |
| **Literacy:** Candy Cane Café | Customer, server, bus boy, Hot chocolate, candy canes, ginger bread cookies, order forms, Hot coco machine | Serve cookies/hot chocolate, take and make orders at counter, make gingerbread cookies/houses. | Pipe cleaner candy canes, play dough cookies, cardboard gingerbread houses, order forms | I’m cold and need hot chocolate, there is no more hot chocolate/cookies, ran out of cups, spilled hot chocolate, dropped cookie | Count money, read/write order, cookie shapes, size cups, read signs |
| **Table Toys**: Ice Fishing | Fishermen, Bait Seller  Hats, badge, license, fish, pond, penguins, ice, | Get fishing license, Fish, Count/weigh fish, build ice structures, take care of penguins | Fishing licenses, Fishing poles, Fish, Pond, Scales, penguins, ice cubes | No license  Can’t catch fish  Line tangled  Not catching fish  Pole broken  No ice to fish | Counting, weighing, measuring fish, Forms for license, books, match fish types |
| **Art:** Snow play | Family Members, Weather Forecaster, Snow Plow Driver  Boots, Mittens, Scarves, build a snowman, throw snowballs | Report weather, Dress for weather, Shovel snow, Plow snow, make a snowman, throw snowballs, build a snow pile/mountain | TV-Weather props,  “Snow”, Plow, Cars, Shovels, snowmen, snowballs, snowball targets | Snow too deep  Car stuck in snow  Not dressed for snow  Act out The Snowy Day | The Snowy Day  Temperature, Map, Weather symbols, Books, count snowballs, put snowman in order, make button patterns, target scores |

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| **Centers** | **Simple Scenarios & Scripts** | **Vocabulary** |
| **Dramatic Play/**  **Home/**  **Lodge** | The weather too cold to be outside, everyone must stay inside   * “We are going to roast marshmallows by the fire.” * “We are going to read stories by fire.” * “Let’s make decorations.”   **Scenario & Script Evolution: What can happen next?** | Fire place  Roast  Hot chocolate  Lodge  Guests  Decorate |
| **Blocks/**  **Winter Olympics/Games** | We need to practice more to do well at the event   * “Let’s practice skiing/sledding.” * “Let me see your medal.” * “ Try your best.”   **Scenario & Script Evolution: What can happen next?** | Winner  Medal  Olympics  Racing  Score  Place  Toboggin |
| **Science/Winter in the woods/hibernation** | Animals need for the winter   * “Do you see any tracks.” * “Let’s leave fish for the bears.” * “Did any of the animals eat the food we left.”   **Scenario & Script Evolution: What can happen next?** | Hibernation  Forest ranger  Bird feeder  Tracks  Cave  Frozen |
| **Literacy/**  **Candy Cane Café** | We are cold and hungry.   * “I would like to order a hot chocolate.” * “Let’s make more cookies.” * “Come in and get warm.”   **Scenario & Script Evolution: What can happen next?** | Coco  Gingerbread  Shelter  Hungry  Break  Cold  Sizes: small, medium, large |
| **Table Toys/Ice fishing** | We can’t catch fish.   * “Did you feel the tug on your line.” * “Do you have any fish in your net.” * “Is the ice frozen.”   **Scenario & Script Evolution: What can happen next?** | Ice fishing  License  Ice house  Fishing pole  Fishing net  Frozen  Scales |
| **Art**  **Snow**  **Play** | It’s too hard to build a snowman.   * “Let’s build a snowman.” * “We have to shovel the snow.” * “Let’s see if we can hit the snowball target.”   **Scenario & Script Evolution: What can happen next?** | Snowman  Shovel  Snow plow  Stuck  Mountain  Target  Snowball  Weather |

