

Melting Coloured Ice Blocks Experience

Why melting coloured ice blocks?

Water play, science experience and colour mixing are enjoyable open ended activities that allow children to explore and learn about the world around them. This particular experience provides children with many opportunities for learning and development.

Colour melting also helps to develop:

- Making predictions about what may happen and why.
- Language skills through labeling colours and using descriptive language to explain what is occurring during the experience.
- Self-regulation through therapeutic sensory play.

Here's what you'll need:

- Small containers suitable for using in the freezer such as margarine or ice cream containers.
- Water.

- Two colours of food dye, red, blue or yellow work best.
- Small interesting items to freeze inside ice blocks such as small toy dinosaurs, toy fish, stones, gum nuts etc.

How to start:

There are two parts to this experience which you may like to work on over two days.

- Select items for freezing and place them in containers with water.
- Add a different color of food dye to each container and place in freezer.
- Talk with your child about what will happen to the water in the freezer and perhaps even guess how long it will take to freeze. Will they be ready after lunch or first thing in the morning?

Play-based learning at home

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Here's how to do it:

- Remove two different coloured ice blocks from their freezer containers and place on a tray.
- Encourage your child to guess what will happen next.
- As the ice melts, encourage your child to guess what colour the two colors will make when they are mixed.
- Talk about why the ice is melting and encourage your child to find ways to make it melt faster such as rubbing it with their hands or chipping off small pieces to reach the interesting items inside.
- Encourage your child to explore the sensory aspects of the experience.
- Have fun.



Photo provided by Belmont Kindergarten