

Keep this sheet.
Collect them all!



Explore your world with this Science-to-Go backpack



Books in this backpack

- **Are You Ready for Winter?**
by Sheila Anderson
- **It's Snowing!**
by Gail Gibbons
- **Over and Under the Snow**
by Kate Messner
- **Owl Moon**
by Jane Yolen
- **Time to Sleep**
by Denise Fleming

Idea!

Pick out a couple of interesting words in the books and talk about those words with your child: what they mean, when you might use them, etc.

More books
at your
library

Animals in Winter. Henrietta Bancroft. E591.543.
It's Winter! Linda Glaser. E GLASER.
Sizing Up Winter. Lizann Flatt. E516.15
Snow. Manya Stojic. E STOJIC.
Time to Sleep. Steve Jenkins. E591.519.

Local Connection

A cold winter day is a great time to visit a library, nature center or museum. Try the Children's Museum of Tacoma (pay as you will admission!).



ACTIVITY

Be a Cone Explorer

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The objects we think of as “pine cones” are the fertilized female cones of many types of conifer trees—think firs, cedars, yews and, of course, pines. In this activity, your kids will look more closely at cones, discover the seeds inside and watch them close up when exposed to water. Afterwards, they can make a simple bird feeder out of the pine cone.

What you need:

- Conifer tree that has dropped its cones
- Towel
- Bowl
- Water
- Optional: string, nut butter and bird seed

Try this:

1. Go on a walk with your child in search of conifer trees. When you find one, examine the tree together. Do you see cones on the tree? Are similar cones on the ground?
2. Gather fallen cones.
3. At home, inspect the cones. Have your child sort the open cones from the closed cones.
4. Find seeds. Explain that there are many seeds inside each cone. Roll an open cone over the towel to release the seeds.
5. Get the cones wet. Have your child place an open cone in the water. What happens?
6. Let the cone dry out. Take the closed cone out of the water and place it somewhere dry, like a windowsill or mantel. What does your child think will happen? Check on the cone together every day.
7. Make a bird feeder. Once the cone is dry and open, roll it in nut butter and bird seed. Hang with string from a tree branch to make a nifty bird feeder.

Rhyme

Snowman

Head ball
(stretch arms overhead,
fingertips touching)

Belly ball
(swing arms down
to cradle tummy)

Bottom ball
(drop hands to floor)

Done!
(straighten up,
clap hands once)

Building a snowman
(roll hands in
front of body)

Is SOOO much fun!
(wave hands wildly)

Field Notebook

Add something to the field notebook!

Encourage your child to draw cones and seeds in the field notebook. Ask them what they like best about winter. Write their thoughts down.