



Pinnacle

Thank you for your interest in **Pinnacle Curriculum™** as a tool for providing quality programming in your child care center. **Pinnacle Curriculum™** is designed to engage children in developmentally appropriate activities that move them toward their potential in all areas of child development. It provides teachers with daily resources that make creating meaningful learning experiences possible, eliminating the time consuming research that lesson planning often takes.

Pinnacle Curriculum offers six age-specific teacher guides for each month. **Infants, Toddlers, Twos, Threes, Fours and School-Agers all have their own developmentally- appropriate and age-specific curriculum guide for each month of the year.**

What does Pinnacle Curriculum include?

- An easy-to-follow daily or weekly format
- Lesson plan guide
- Options for enriching activity centers every day and week
- Suggested book lists and "ready-to-send" parent letters
- Academic Options
- Daily, weekly, and monthly supply lists
- Art patterns for classroom enrichment

In the accompanying information you will find a sample of materials for each age group. We are confident that you will find **Pinnacle Curriculum™** to be your solution in providing children a curriculum that offers the opportunity to grow and develop to their greatest potential.

If you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact ChildCare Education Institute at 1.800.499.9907. Ask for a Pinnacle specialist who is available to answer your questions or assist you in placing an order.

Sample Four-Year-Old Faith-Based Curriculum Guide

SAMPLE

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SAMPLE

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Welcome to Sample Pinnacle Curriculum™



"Winter Wonders"

January is here and with the new month comes winter wonders God has given us that make it a thrilling time of year! With snow, ice, and frosty weather outside, fours can learn all about the wonders of winter as they play and explore. Whether your snowflakes are made from ice, glitter, or just cut paper, winter is fun as you work through Pinnacle Curriculum™ this month. Week 1 starts with a look at snow, snowflakes, and ice. Week 2 focuses on winter outerwear – mittens, hats, scarves, and coats. Next, in Weeks 3 and 4, comes a look at Arctic and Antarctic animals – polar bears, penguins, and seals. Finally, in Week 5, we'll learn about Eskimos and how they live in a very cold climate. Assess your students' interests and choose the weekly units that interest them; plan your month around these choices.

Remember to keep the warmth and joy of Christ in your heart as you move into a brand new month that sometimes brings the winter blahs. As our scripture focus moves from the baby Jesus to His ministry and His first words of teaching to us, let your mind be filled with the ways of God, not the ways of the world, and you'll demonstrate His peace, love, and joy to the children in your classroom each day. While we take a look at the beatitudes in *Matthew 5* this month, be sure to help your fours relate to the "be-attitudes": the attitudes that Jesus wants us to have.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM
FOUR-YEAR-OLDS, WEEK 1
"WINTER WONDERS"



SAMPLE

Pinnacle: Sample, Week 1

Unit Theme: "Snow, Snowflakes, and Ice"

Bible Focus: "The Beatitudes"



Introduction

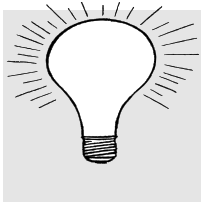
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! As we think of winter, regardless of where we live, we often think of snow. Children enjoy playing in and experiencing this cold substance and passing down the traditions of making snowballs, snowmen and snow angels, and sledding on white hills.

And if even if God hasn't given you the magic of white snow falling in your area during the winter season you can create your own "Winter Wonderland" with crafts, activities, and imagination!

As you talk about snowflakes, discuss how snowflakes, like children, are each unique. God hasn't made any two the same and yet each is beautiful in its own way. Reinforce this week that each of your students is different and yet uniquely special!

Strive to meet these objectives during this first week of January:

- To develop gross motor skills through imitating large motor movements
- To develop fine motor skills through writing and drawing
- To develop fine motor skills through manipulative play
- To develop language skills through exposure to stories and literature and print
- To develop language skills through providing drawing and writing experiences
- To develop socio-emotional skills through exploration of feelings and understanding of thankfulness
- To develop socio-emotional skills through small group interaction
- To develop socio-emotional skills through consistent routines and responsibilities
- To develop socio-emotional skills through building self-concept
- To develop thinking and problem-solving skills through sorting and classifying
- To develop thinking and problem-solving skills through grouping by characteristics
- To develop thinking and problem-solving skills through imitating patterns



Room Enrichment Ideas

If you currently use a calendar with the children, now is a good time to begin to teach them basic patterning skills with the calendar. Use two different shapes as day markers. Snowflakes could be even numbers and snowmen odd numbers for the month. The first pattern you will be teaching the children is snowflake, snowman, snowflake, snowman, snowflake, snowman.

Another good idea for this month is to hang snowflakes from the ceiling. On the bulletin board, have a background of a blue sky and white snow. Label the scene "God's Wintry Wonderland." Leave the rest blank to be decorated by the children's art as they make it!

 Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

Pinnacle: Sample, Week 1 Day 1



Morning Group

- Welcome – Welcome the children to this new month with a new song to the tune of “Frère Jacques:”

Move like snowflakes,
Move like snowflakes,
In the wind,
In the wind.

Come on over to group time,
Come on over to group time,

_____’s here (fill in the children’s names as they arrive),
_____’s here.

Prior to class, make name cards for each child out of ½ sheets of construction paper. On the front write their first name, on the back their first and last name. Place the cards in a circle before the children arrive. When they arrive they must find their name and place it in the box at the center of the circle. When everyone has arrived ask the children who is not present. Have them give you the name cards for the absent children.

- Radical Morning Routines:
 - o Look at the calendar for the New Year and point out any upcoming birthdays.
 - o Observe and record the day’s weather.
 - o Assign weekly jobs. Be sure that each child understands what his job is.
 - o Prayer: Thank You, God, for snowflakes,
And thank You, God, for making me.
For everyone is different,
Each one a specialty. Amen.
- Theme and Bible Talk – Play Winter Wonderland. Talk about cold weather. If you are in an area where it does not snow, have pictures of snowmen, snowball fights, and children playing in the snow. Have the children share what their favorite activities are in the snow, or what they think would be the most fun thing about snow. Write them on a sheet of paper and post it on the wall.

Many of the children may not have seen snow before. Talk about how God made the snow, as He made all things. Stop and thank Him for it.



Bible Focus

Bible Circle Time: Beatitudes are the “be-attitudes,” the attitudes Jesus wants us to have. Share with the children that this month we are going to be learning about how we should think or feel about things. That is what an attitude is. Jesus taught us that if we have certain attitudes, we will be happy. Read *Matthew 5:3-12* or [The Beatitudes \(Prayers with Bears\)](#) on beatitudes by Alan and Linda (Thomas Nelson Publishers 2000) Parry to the children. If we do not have “be-attitudes,” we are frozen inside just like the snow on the ground. “Be-attitudes” keep us warm inside.

Matthew 5:3-12:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they will be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say
All kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Sing a song about the “be-attitudes.”

I've got the “be-attitudes” deep in my heart,
Deep in my heart, deep in my heart.
I've got the “be-attitudes” deep in my heart,
Deep in my heart to stay.

Repeat the Bible verse again.

Close in prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for making everyone unique. Help us to show the beatitudes to everyone we meet. Amen.



Large Group

Pass out several precut snowflakes, making sure each one is unique and different. Talk about the shapes and sizes of the snowflakes. Explain to the children that no two snowflakes are ever alike in nature. Encourage more talk about snow and winter weather. What are good parts about wintertime?



Small Group

Cover a ball with white paper and play "Cold Snowball" like the game of "Hot Potato."



Language

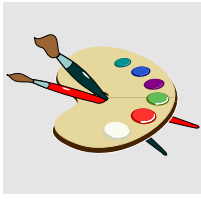
Phonemes are the basic sounds in words. Children have to be able to differentiate the different sounds in words before phonics can be introduced. In preschool we do this passively with poetry. This week we'll be focusing on the "s" sound in snow.

Read the following poem to the children:

Snow, snow,
Listen to snow.
Snow is silent
Snow is slushy
Snow is soft.

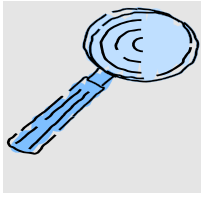
Snow is...have the children fill in the blank with their own words that do not have to begin with "s".

Add winter books to the children's collection. Include favorites from last month, but be sure to add new ones as well!



Creative Arts

Give the children a plain, white paper circle 6" in diameter. Have them squeeze silver glitter glue on the page in random patterns. Fold the paper in half. Open the paper up and you have a snowflake. Put the snowflakes on the bulletin board for all to see.



Science/Sensory

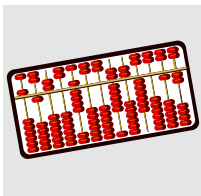
Using the directions provided on a bluing agent that can be purchased in the laundry section of any grocery store, grow a crystal garden. It takes about a week and the children can observe the process and make daily notes on the progress of the crystal growth.



Dramatic Play

Make a milk jug igloo for the children to play in. Take gallon milk jugs and connect them with nuts, bolts, and washers opening side inward until you have a structure large enough for children to enter and exit. *Caution with nuts and bolts. They can be a choking hazard. You may use staples covered with sturdy tape as well.* Add winter boots, mittens, scarves, heavy jackets, etc. to the dress up clothes. Add fishing gear as well. Provide a box sled for the children to travel in while working in the igloo.

Option: Use a large cardboard box to create the igloo. Have children paint it with white tempera paint and sponges.



Math/Manipulative

Using photographs of winter activities in your community, make a memory game. You will need two identical copies of each photograph to mount on card stock. All cards should end up with the same backing and the same size. Using familiar scenes makes the experience more meaningful than the store-bought games. **Note:** A great option is to capture children playing outdoors in the winter weather and make double prints!



Blocks

Add small plastic foam balls and ramps to the block area for children enjoyment.



Music/Movement

Sing and have the children create the movements to this song to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush:"

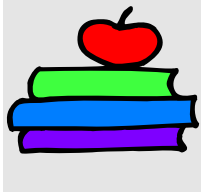
This is the way a snowflake falls,
A snowflake falls,
A snowflake falls.
This is the way a snowflake falls,
On a winter morning.

This is the way to make a snowball,
Make a snowball,
Make a snowball.
This is the way to make a snowball,
On a winter morning.



Outdoor Learning

Provide sand buckets and shovels for digging outside in the clean snow, if snow is at your center. It is always good to keep extra mittens on hand in case children have not brought theirs. If no snow is available, bring large sheets of white butcher paper outside (or white confetti) to pretend!



Academic Options

- We've chosen this wintry time of month to focus on the letter "W"! Here are a few ideas to get you children learning about the letter W:
 - o Call attention to the letter "W" in your alphabet chart and the "W" in Wednesday on your calendar.
 - o Search together for any other "W"s that might be in the room.
 - o Books with the letter "W" in the title, such as Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins 1988), encourage the development of the concept that letters make "words" and words make stories!
 - o Create a variety of "W's" made from different textures reinforce the shape of "W".
 - o Add templates of capital and lowercase "W" for tracing or rubbing activities this week.
 - o "W"s can easily be made from toothpicks, straws, pretzels, and other straight objects. (Be sure to supervise activities with these materials closely.)
 - o For some large motor practice too, make "W"s out of children's straight bodies lying on the floor!
 - o Create a large "W" template for each child to glue wallpaper scraps to.
 - o Add wigs and wallets to the housekeeping area.
 - o Make your classroom a "winter wonderland" and celebrate "winter weather" this week!
- **Sound Circle:** Polish up your little red "wagon" and wheel it in filled with items that begin with the letter "W". (Make sure to include items that begin with "w" and not with the "wh" blend to stay developmentally appropriate for fours!) Fasten that capital and lowercase "W" to the side of that wagon, park it in the middle of your sound circle, and let the fun begin! As you look together at each "W" item together, emphasize the beginning sound of each word. Here are some suggestions of "W" items to fill your wagon with: wafers, waffles, walkie talkies, a wallet, walnuts, wallpaper, watercolors, a watch, a wig, a wishbone, wool, a piece of wood, and even a real worm if you're up to the challenge! Display the wagon so the children can see the "W" items all during the week. Do your families participate by bringing items from home each week? If so, you probably don't even have to remind them; but if not, the New Year is a wonderful time to cultivate some good habits, so keep trying! This means today is a reminder day for bringing "W" items tomorrow.

DAILY SUPPLY LIST

Gather the Following Items:

Construction paper name cards	Snowy pictures
Tape player	Precut snowflakes
White ball/white-covered ball	Winter books
White paper	Silver glitter glue
Bluing agent	Classroom igloo
Winter boots	Sand buckets
Mittens	Jackets
Fishing gear	Box sled
Double print memory game	Shovels
Plastic foam balls and ramps	"W" items
Blue and white bulletin board paper	White confetti
Pictures of snowmen	White butcher paper
Pictures of children playing in snow	White paper circles
Pictures of snowball fights	Sponges
White tempera paint	Large box
Pictures of winter activities (pairs)	Glue
Card stock	Buckets
Nuts, bolts, and washers or sturdy tape	Gallon milk jugs
<u>The Beatitudes (Prayers with Bears)</u>	Children's Bible
by Alan and Linda Parry (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000)	

 Enrichment Ideas / Individual Instruction

Weekly Lesson Plan for Four-Year-Olds

Sample, Week 1

Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Morning Group</i>	Singing and talking about cold	Singing and discussing winter clothing	Singing and discussing snow and ice	Singing and discussing a snowman	Singing and discussing crystals
<i>Bible Focus</i>	Introducing the beatitudes	Discussing being poor in spirit	Discussing the warmth Jesus brings	Discussing sins	Discussing the warmth Jesus brings and singing
<i>Large Group</i>	Discussing snowflakes	Reading a winter story	Discussing the three states of water	Discussing boxes and size	Reading about snow and ice
<i>Small Group</i>	Playing "Cold Snowball"	Putting on winter clothing and or making praying hands	Making a water picture collage	Painting boxes white	Making rock candy
<i>Language</i>	Reading a poem, discussing snow, and reading about winter	Learning Spanish clothing words	Enjoying books on tape	Enjoying books on tape	Putting recipe cards in order
<i>Creative Arts</i>	Creating snowflakes	Dressing paper dolls	Making three-dimensional sleds	Creating snowmen	Using glittery, white paint
<i>Science/Sensory</i>	Growing a crystal garden	Reading a wintry science book and observing the crystals	Exploring shaving cream	Examining materials for making snowmen and observing crystals	Observing crystals
<i>Dramatic Play</i>	Playing in an igloo and wearing winter clothing	Playing in an igloo and wearing winter clothing	Playing in an igloo and wearing winter clothing	Making snowmen	Playing in an igloo and wearing winter clothing
<i>Math/Manipulative</i>	Playing a winter activity memory game	Completing winter-themed puzzles	Making snowflake and snowmen patterns	Sorting by size	Making snowflake and snowmen patterns
<i>Blocks</i>	Using Styrofoam balls and ramps	Using cotton filling	Using Styrofoam balls and ramps	Building a snow fort	Making winter creations
<i>Music/Movement</i>	Singing and moving like a snowflake	Singing about icicles	Playing "Silly Songster"	Moving like the wind	Having a "Freeze Dance"
<i>Outdoor Learning</i>	Digging in snow	Going on a nature walk	Playing "Fox and Geese"	Building a snowman	Building a snowman
<i>Academic Options</i>	Exploring "W"	Exploring "W" and white items	Exploring the star shape and "W"	Exploring "5" and "W"	Having a "wild and wacky day" and reviewing concepts