

“In the Wild”

Module 2, Exploring Ice

The logo for "EXPLORE IT" is enclosed in a black rectangular border. The word "EXPLORE" is in a bold, sans-serif font, with the letter "O" highlighted in green and the letter "R" in purple. The word "IT" is in a smaller, simpler font to the right.

Prompt:

Experiment with ice! Watch closely to see what happens when ice melts. Then, try some experiments.

- Can you make it melt faster?
- Can you move the ice around with different tools or stack pieces of ice on top of each other?
- If there's something inside your ice, how will you get it out?

Materials:

- Ice (prepared beforehand)
- A bin or container to hold ice while exploring (or this activity can be done outside directly on the ground)
- A small amount of water (optional)
- Tools to explore the ice. Some suggestions include:
 - Scoops and small shovels
 - Small plastic containers (yogurt cups, ice trays)
 - Spray bottles (with cold or warm water)
 - Turkey baster
 - Tongs
 - Magnifying glass

Note for caregivers: This activity could get messy. Use a plastic table cloth or garbage bag to cover any surfaces you don't want to get wet or do this activity outside.

Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child.
2. Work together to set up an area in your home or outside where your child can explore ice. Put the ice in a container or on the ground for your child to explore.
3. Give your child any tools or toys to use with the ice. Depending on how familiar your child is with these objects (things like turkey basters, spray bottles, magnifying glass, etc.), you may need to demonstrate how to use them.

4. Invite your child to explore the ice. Some children will jump right in. Some may need a little more prompting to get them going. Suggestions to get your child started include:
- If you've frozen objects inside the ice, challenge them to get the objects out. How will they get to them? Have them make up a story about how the objects got stuck inside the ice.
 - If you've added color to your ice, ask them what they think will happen once the ice starts to melt. Then, have them watch closely.
 - Invite them to build an ice sculpture by moving the ice cubes around or stacking them on top of one another.
 - Ask them how they think they then can melt the ice the fastest. Challenge them to try. Which tool will they use?
 - How much ice can they fit in one cup? Can they transfer the ice from one container to another?

Resources:

Check out Boston Children's Museum Instructables Page for more ideas on ways to play with ice: [Exploring Ice : 6 Steps \(with Pictures\)](#).

Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Reserve some ice ahead of time and continue to hand it out slowly, so your child always has exciting fresh ice to play with!
- Use the link in the Resources section of this page to get some more ideas on things to try with ice, such as experimenting with salt or sugar.
- Once all the ice has melted, invite your child to play with the water. They can pretend it is a magical potion, test things that sink and float, or spend some time scooping and pouring. If you are outside, give them a paintbrush or a sponge and have them paint with water. Dip the brush or sponge in the water and see what marks they can make on the ground.

Together with your child, go to the "In the Wild" topic on Flipgrid and share their favorite ice exploration.