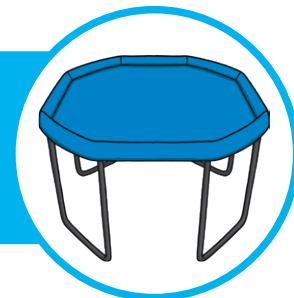


# Creative Ways to Use Large Activity Trays

## Winter-Themed Ideas



Add some artificial snow along with some ice cubes and [Winter Stick Puppets](#). Provide some small world trees, houses and people for children to use and decorate with cotton wool snow.

Hide pairs of mittens or these patterned [Mitten Cut-Outs](#) in a tray of artificial snow. Encourage children to match the patterned pairs and count the mittens they find.

Freeze some ice cubes with a little paint or food colouring. Provide the children with the ice cubes and large pieces of paper. What icy pictures and patterns can the children create as the ice melts?



Draw outlines of snowmen using white chalk in the tray. Add twigs, buttons, pom-poms and strips of material for children to use to decorate the snowmen.

Make some [Sparkly Snow Cloud Dough](#) and encourage children to explore moulding and shaping the dough to build snowmen, snowballs or using cutters to create snowflakes.

Line the tray with tinfoil and add shaving foam, snowflake sequins and a sprinkle of eco-glitter over the top. Provide the children with cotton buds to draw pictures of snowflakes and explore mark making.

Freeze some snowflake sequins inside ice cubes for the children to discover and explore as the ice melts.

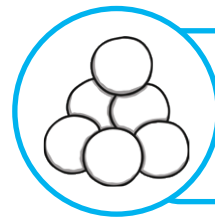


Place some filter paper snowflakes into the tray and provide some watery blue and silver paint along with pipettes, for children to use to decorate the snowflakes.

Create gloop by adding cornflour and water to the tray along with a sprinkle of eco-glitter. Add some small world people or animals too. Children can explore using their fine motor skills to try and free the toys from the gloop.

Provide some small sieves along with small cups of flour or artificial snow. Encourage children to sift the flour or snow over a small world scene to represent snow.

Provide some ice cubes along with paintbrushes and paint. Children can explore painting the ice cubes and observe as the ice melts and the colours mix together.



Line a tray with white felt or material. Add some white pom-poms or polystyrene balls, and bowls and spoons. Children can explore using the spoons to scoop up a 'snowball' and place it into a bowl.

## **Disclaimer**

To ensure the safety of the children in your setting, it is your responsibility to assess whether adult supervision or other appropriate safety measures are required when carrying out any of these activities.