

Dear Family,

In my class today I learned about snow and how it melts.

Did You Know?

- Any type of water that forms in the atmosphere and drops to the Earth is called precipitation. Precipitation forms in clouds. Rain, hail, sleet, and snow are forms of precipitation that fall from the sky. Precipitation comes from water drops in the clouds that become heavy enough to fall back to Earth. Rain that falls from clouds and freezes before hitting the Earth is called sleet. Hail comes from very cold water droplets that freeze as soon as they touch dust or dirt in the air. Cold storm clouds blow the frozen droplets into the upper part of the cloud. Frozen droplets attach to each other, and then they fall to the Earth as hail. Snow is precipitation that falls in the form of ice crystals.
- Snow is soft, individually frozen ice crystals that form in clouds. In order for snow to fall to the ground, the temperature must be cold in the clouds as well as on the ground. When the temperature drops below freezing, tiny water droplets stick to small bits of dust that have been carried up into the atmosphere by the wind. The water droplets and the dust stick together and form ice crystals. Ice crystals stick together in clusters to form snowflakes. As snowflakes grow, they become heavier and fall to the ground. Each snowflake is made of as many as 200 ice crystals. Every snowflake has six sides but each snowflake is different. Snow falls only in areas where the temperature is cold enough for snow to form, so it does not snow in all parts of the United States.

Ask Your Child:

- What did you do with snow?
- Explain where snow comes from.
- Can you tell me other types of precipitation?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- If you live in an area where snow is present, go outside with your child and play in it.
- Make pretend snow at home by mixing Epsom salt with glitter in a basin. Play with the pretend snow with your child using scoops, cups, plastic forks, etc. You can try to add color to your snow by mixing food coloring with water and spritzing it on the snow.
- Make snowman snacks out of large marshmallows stuck on pretzel rods, and then eat them!
- Make snowman pictures using white paint on blue colored paper.

Vocabulary To Use With Your Child: snow, snowflake, weather, melt, precipitation, ice crystal