

# Using Tools: Building with Ice

## Early Head Start Activity

**Description:** Build and explore with ice cubes.

### Materials

- Ice cubes with items in them
- Salt
- spoons
- Droppers
- Water
- Trays

### Set Up

- Freeze or purchase ice cubes
- Try freezing water in containers of different sizes, shapes, and colors
- This activity can work well outside

### Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework Alignment

▲ **Goal IT-C 12.** Child uses objects or symbols to represent something else.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESSION			INDICATORS
Birth to 9 Months	8 to 18 Months	16 to 36 Months	By 36 Months
<i>Emerging</i>	Uses toy objects in ways similar to the real objects they represent, such as talking on a toy phone.	Uses objects as symbols to represent other objects during pretend play, such as using blocks for toy cars or trucks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Uses familiar objects to represent something else.</li> <li>▲ Improvises with props during pretend play, such as using a towel for a blanket or making a cookie out of play dough.</li> <li>▲ Understands that some symbols have meaning, such as a sign or a drawing.</li> </ul>

▲ **Goal IT-C 9.** Child uses spatial awareness to understand objects and their movement in space.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESSION			INDICATORS
Birth to 9 Months	8 to 18 Months	16 to 36 Months	By 36 Months
Explores or examines objects and watches objects when they move.	Explores how things fit together, how they fit with other things, and how they move through space, such as a ball thrown under a table.	Predicts or anticipates how things move through space, or fit together or inside other things, such as putting smaller objects into a small box and larger objects into a large box.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Does puzzles with interlocking pieces, different colors and shapes.</li> <li>▲ Understands some effects of size or weight when picking up or moving objects.</li> </ul>

These images have been adapted from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. "Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework." *Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework*, Office of Head Start. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/elof-ohs-framework.pdf>

## Suggestions for Teaching

Depending on the age of the children, this activity will look different. This is open ended and sensory, there is no wrong way to explore the ice!

Here are some activity extensions and adaptations:

- Let children use all of their senses to explore the ice cubes
- Invite children to build something wide, or something tall. What happens when you introduce water?
- Explore vocabulary such as cold, warm, frozen, and melt
- Make patterns out of the different types of ice cubes

**Description:** Children will experiment with different ways to melt ice by using different tools.

## Materials

- Ice cubes with items in them
- Salt
- cups for salt
- spoons
- Droppers
- Cups for water
- Trays (optional for mess control)
- Magnifying glasses
- Tweezers
- Popsicle sticks

## Set Up

- Freeze ice cubes with a toy or item in the middle (do this at least 24 hours before activity)
- Put out tools for children to use to help them get the item out of the ice cube (warm water, salt, spoons, droppers, magnifying glasses, tweezers, popsicle sticks)
- Put ice cubes in trays for children
- Invite children to use the materials to melt the ice and get the item out

## Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework Alignment

▲ **Goal IT-C 6.** Child learns to use a variety of strategies in solving problems.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESSION			INDICATORS
Birth to 9 Months	8 to 18 Months	16 to 36 Months	By 36 Months
Engages in simple repeated actions to reach a goal, such as trying to get whole hand and then fingers or thumb in mouth.	Explores how to make something happen again or how something works by doing actions over and over again, such as repeatedly filling a container and emptying it out.	Engages in activities for longer periods of time and tries several times to solve more challenging problems, often using a combination of actions or behaviors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Uses a variety of strategies to solve problems, such as trial and error, simple tools, or asking someone to help.</li> <li>▲ Tries to solve the same problem in several different ways at different times.</li> </ul>

▲ **Goal IT-C 1.** Child actively explores people and objects to understand self, others, and objects.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESSION			INDICATORS
Birth to 9 Months	8 to 18 Months	16 to 36 Months	By 36 Months
Uses the senses and a variety of actions to examine people and objects, such as mouthing, touching, shaking or dropping.	Acts intentionally to achieve a goal or when manipulating an object, such as trying to get an adult to do something or trying different ways to reach a toy under a table.	Observes and experiments with how things work, seeks information from others, or experiments with different behaviors to see how people and objects react.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Learns about characteristics of people and properties and uses of objects through the senses and active exploration.</li> <li>▲ Experiments with everyday objects or materials to answer "What?", "Why?" or "How?" questions.</li> </ul>

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### Suggestions for Teaching

Depending on the age of the children, this activity will look different. This is open ended and sensory, there is no wrong way to melt the ice!

Here are some activity extensions and adaptations:

- Limit resources, give each child a set amount of water and salt to give them more of a challenge
- Keep the tools simple and give the children only spoons to use
- Do this activity again and again! Ask the children what they want to freeze for next time

### Credits and rights

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This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services