



Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home



Winter Wonderland

Sometimes it is nice to go out in the winter, when it is a crisp, clear day. Other times, it is grey and sleety and we just want to stay in.

When we do go out, though, there is so much interest and learning to be seen if only we look. Today's idea is about seasons, but also helps to develop attention and noticing skills – all in the course of a playful walk in the winter wherever you are

What do I need?

- Just go out for your regular walk (with dog or not) to the park, or the shops, or just round the block
- If the weather is bad today, you can do this from a window too
- Have in mind a few signs of winter (what can you see, feel, smell, hear) that you can point out and chat about

What will your child learn from this play?

- About seasons and what makes them different
- About their different senses (touch, sight, sound, etc)
- How to notice things and talk about them
- Understanding "same" and "different" and noticing contrasts

What do we do?

When you are out for your walk, or on the way to the shops (or, if it is really bad outside, looking through the window!):

- Chat to your child about how you know it is winter. What signs can you see?
- What can you hear (could be the wind blowing, or the rain)?
- What can you feel? Cold? Wet?
- What can you smell? Wet leaves? Smoke from fires?

If your child is interested, see what else you can see

You could chat about how it is different in summer

Or about what people do in wintertime that is different

If your child goes off on a different topic, or is not interested, that's fine – just follow their lead and pick up again next time you are out

How can you take it further?

Look out for some signs of Spring too (buds, getting warmer and lighter)

If you have a thermometer, see how the temperature varies from indoors to out, or from day to day (your child may not understand the numbers, but they might see the changes)

Look up online some cold places (the Arctic, etc) and look together at the snow and the creatures that live there