

Igloo Project

Submitted by Krystal Fahlman

The children in Pre-Kindergarten were very interested in building structures with blocks and materials. I created an invitation with sugar cubes and pictures of Igloos. The children were not sure what to do with the cubes at first, but one child correctly identified the picture as an "igloo." We talked about what is an igloo? I began asking different questions to the children interested in this new invitation. What shape is it? What is it made of? What do you see in the picture? Can we make one? How could we make one?



We spent a few days researching igloos in books from the library and trying to build our own with the cubes. Then, children wanted to make a bigger one with blocks. They found it hard to make the blocks look round like in the pictures. I set out several milk jugs in a pile on the floor by the pictures. The children tried stacking them, but they would fall down. I suggested that what if we glued the milk jugs together would that hold it? The children wanted to try, so we started gluing the jugs. I used hot glue to hold the jugs firmly together. I would glue and the students would hold them together until they were dry. We spent the first few days gluing all the jugs we had together and placing them in pairs on the floor.



I got a large piece of cardboard for the base and we started to assemble the bottom layer. We glued 30 jugs in a circle, but leaving a large space for the doorway. Each day we would add more pairs on top of the base.



The children had a wonderful time helping us hold the jugs in place and counting the number of jugs in each layer of our igloo. We had to put our project on hold to collect more jugs to finish the roof. Slowly each layer took fewer jugs until we completely closed the roof.



The children enjoyed showing their families the igloo we built. We used it in our classroom as a quiet space for children to sit and read books. We added lights to the roof, blankets and pillows for the children to sit on. We kept it in the classroom until the end of year using it for various centres.



The igloo took awhile to make, but we worked together as a team and persevered until it was finished. The children had a lot of respect for their hard work and kept the igloo in good condition. If you are interested in trying to make an igloo in the classroom you need to plan for the following:

- Watch online videos of how to make a milk jug igloo (We adapted it to fit our learning space and did not use that much glue!)
 - <http://www.squidoo.com/milk-jug-igloo>
- Collect milk jugs with lids (We collect clean milk jugs for 2 months at our school. Ask for families to send extra milk jug lids.)
- Buy lots of hot glue sticks! You need to use a high temperature glue gun and sticks. (We went through several packages of glue!)
- Place cardboard or something for a base on top of the floor
- Make sure you have lots of time! (It is a slow process, but having the students help build it is very rewarding!)

