

CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND RESOURCES REVIEW

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Winter Wonderland Books

As temperatures drop, educators are wondering about embracing the snow, ice, and cooler temperatures. This collection of books looks at how animals manage the winter, celebrate winter play, and explore the science of snow. As with animals, humans can also prepare for and interact with winter weather, enjoying nature play, investigating snow, and building snow creatures.

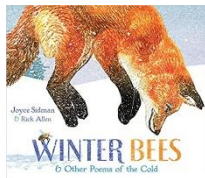
Some Suggested Children's Books:

Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner



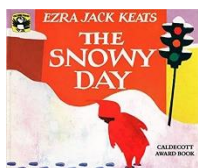
While humans explore the woods via skis above the snow, the reader peeks at what is happening under the snow. From the squirrel eating an acorn, a fox pouncing on an animal under the snow, and a chipmunk sleeping soundly, read about how animals handle the cold blanket of snow. The author's note explains the subnivean zone under the snow.

Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman



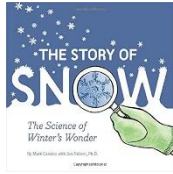
Enjoy a poetic retelling of life in winter for a tundra swan, snakes, snowflakes, moose, voles, chickadees, and more. Each poem is followed with a paragraph of scientific information about the animal or aspect of winter. A glossary ends the book with words that may need definitions.

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats



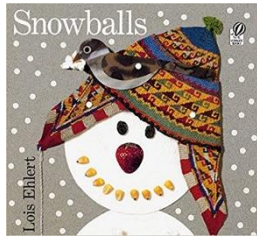
A young boy explores the first snowfall of the year in the city. Bundled up he experiments with dragging his feet in the snow, walking with toes pointed out, playing with a stick, and making a snowman and snow angels. He saves a snowball in his pocket for the next day. He was sad when his pocket was empty yet returned outside for more snow play.

The Story of Snow: The Story of Winter's Wonder by Mark Cassino with Jon Nelson



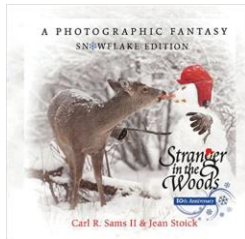
Each page spread has simpler text to tell the story of snow, along with a paragraph to tell the scientific side of snow in more depth. This can be read at a simple or more complex level, with gorgeous photos and illustrations of the variety of snowflakes. Learn how to catch your own snow crystals on the final pages.

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert



The author tells a story with cut paper and loose parts to show how a family created a group of snow people. Take the inspiration outside and make your own snowballs with character! Move beyond the standard carrot, sticks, scarf, and coal to make a snow family with snow and found items. Animals interact with the snow people which eventually melt. "Good stuff" is illustrated at the end to collect for your own snowballs bag.

Stranger in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick



Animals encounter a stranger in the woods. The blue jay, owl, mourning dove, and other animals try to figure out how the stranger arrived, each gaining more confidence as they share how they might get a closer look. Chickadee swoops in and lands on a carrot nose. The deer finds a lost mitten and wonders if more strangers may be around. The "strangers" note the animals ate all the carrots, corn, and seeds and return to leave treats for the animals.

Winter Dance by Marion Dane Bauer



As animals prepare for the snow by gathering nuts, soaring south, and growing fur, fox contemplates what his plan should be. Fox meets a friend who helps celebrate the winter snow. Learn what the turtle, caterpillar, geese, and squirrels do as they hunker down for winter in this sweet story centered on fox.