

## 1. Snow Crystal Creations

Have children measure 1/2 cup Epsom salts and place it in the clear plastic container. Next, measure 1/2 cup water. Add it to the container. Place the lid on the container. Make sure it is tight. Hold the container by top and bottom and shake well until the Epsom salts have dissolved.

Next, have children use this mixture to paint pictures of winter weather scenes on the black construction paper. Use the small blow dryer to gently dry the scene. Do not hold the dryer too close to the paper. As the pictures dry, "snow crystals" form. Encourage conversation about how this "magic" occurred (evaporation).

## 2. Winter Weather Collage

Have children draw and cut out people, birds, bears, and other animals and trees from construction paper and glue them onto dark blue construction paper collage style. When the glue dries, children can use white liquid shoe polish with sponge applicators to create a winter weather scene. Encourage children to name and label their winter scenes.

## Soup's On!

Warm up a chilly day with these two "delicious" books about cooking and eating soup:

*Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehlert for K-1

*Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown for 2-4

If allowed, have students bring in vegetables and create your own vegetable or "stone soup"...with you providing the stone, of course!

Let older kids rewrite *Stone Soup* as a Reader's Theater script and assign roles for reading fluency practice.

## Soup Graph

Invite children to bring in soup labels all during January. Use the labels to practice reading skills: main idea and supporting details; reading for a purpose. Find and read ingredients, calories, vitamin percentages, etc. Then create a graph using headings representative of the soup labels submitted. Have students glue the labels under the headings to discover the class "soup favorite."



## Designer Soup Writing Activity

Have each child bring in a clean, empty soup can (with label removed for the previous activity.) Cut paper to fit around the can and have students design their own personal soup favorites and glue their designer labels around the cans.

Soup creations may be real or imaginary. K-1 may draw pictures and make simple labels, but 2-4 should create the text on both the front and back sections of the label to advertise the benefits of their soup. They should write about the taste, texture, and nutritional benefits of their soup creation.