DELAWARE OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING
Great Tomorrows Begin Today

PRACTICE TIPS FOR JULY: I Scream, You Scream, We *ALL* Scream for Ice Cream

Who doesn't like a scoop of their favorite flavor of ice cream on a warm summer day. Here are some great ice cream activities to do with children.

Make ice cream!

Even very young children can make their own ice cream scoop in a Ziploc bag. No other tools are needed! Fill one small sealable Ziploc bag with ½ cup of milk and 1 tablespoon of sugar. Add ½ tsp of vanilla for added flavor. Seal it up, squeezing out the air. Double bag it in another Ziploc bag.

Next, fill a larger, gallon size Ziploc bag with about 4 cups of crushed or cubed ice and 6 tablespoons of salt. Kosher salt works well but any salt will do. Add the small bag (with the milk and sugar) and seal it shut.

Now, shake, shake, shake! Within 5 minutes, the milk should thicken up. Within 10 minutes you should have one scoop of ice cream! Wrap it in a thin towel while shaking to keep your hands from freezing and wipe off the salt when you remove your ice cream bag from the large bag of ice.

Early Learning Foundations: Infants and Toddlers: Discoveries: Sensory Awareness, Attention and Persistence, Curiosity and Problem Solving; Physical Development and Health: Fine Motor. Preschool: Approaches to Learning: Engagement and Persistence; Science: Scientific Inquiry;

Graph or chart everyone's favorite flavors.

Draw scoops that look like different flavors of ice cream – mint chocolate chip, chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, etc. Ask children to put a slash mark next to the scoop (flavor) that they like best. Or, ask children to name their favorite flavor and write it next to their name. Count the number of flavors. Count the number of children who like the same flavor.

Early Learning Foundations: Infants and Toddlers: Discoveries: Curiosity and Persistence, Play; Language and Literacy: Expressive Language; Preschool: Approaches to Learning: Reasoning and Problem Solving; Mathematics: Numbers and Operations, Data Analysis

Make an ice cream shop in dramatic play area.

Use play dough as the ice cream. Add ice cream scoops, bowls, an apron and a cash register.

Early Learning Foundations: Infants and Toddlers: Discoveries: Curiosity and Persistence, Play; Preschool: My Family, My Community, My World: Money and Resources-Economics: Creative Expression: Dramatic Play

Practice shapes and numbers by making ice cream cones: triangle cone, circle scoops.

Top the cone with scoops. Count how many "scoops" can you eat?

Early Learning Foundations: Infants and Toddlers: Attention and Persistence, Play; Preschool: Mathematics: Geometry and Spatial Sense; Physical Development and Health: Fine Motor.

Have an ice cream social with families.

Serve a few flavors of ice cream and toppings after hours one evening as a fun event. Invite parents to help children make their own special sundae.

Early Learning Foundations: Infants and Toddlers: Attachments and Relationships; Physical Development and Health: Sensory; Preschool: Social Emotional: Self Concept, Social Relationships and Cooperation

Books about Ice Cream:

Yummy Ice Cream by Emma Quay and Anna Walker, *Ice Cream* by Elisha Cooper, *Ice Cream: The Full Scoop*, by Gail Gibbons, *Ice Cream Cones for Sale* by Elaine Greenstein. *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* By Mo Willems, *Curious George and the Ice Cream Surprise* by H. A. Rey.