

STEM starts now

Ice Fishing

Recommended Age: 25–30 Months

STEM concepts: science (physical science, life science, earth science), engineering (engineering), math (number sense, measurement, mathematical thinking)

Materials: 3–4 ice cubes, small glass bowl, room temperature water, salt, 6–8 inch piece of string, teaspoon

What to do: Place ice cubes in a bowl of water. Do not fill the bowl to the top with water. Let the children feel the ice cubes and the water. Lay the piece of string across the top of the ice cubes. Pour about a teaspoon of salt in your child's hand. Have your child sprinkle the salt across the top of the ice cubes. Wait a minute or so and have your child pull the string out and see what they catch. When the ice cubes have melted feel the water again.

Language and Communication: Talk with your child about the different temperatures of the water. Ask questions like: How does the water feel? What do you think will happen when we put the salt on the ice? How did you catch the ice cubes? Tell your child to count how many ice cubes you caught.

Expand the Activity: Freeze other liquids, such as milk or juice. Repeat the experiment and see if it works the same way.

