

Special You, Special Me!

Snowflakes and children are both one of a kind. This blizzard of activities focuses on self-esteem and will help your youngsters see that to be different is to be special.

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A Special Sharing

Celebrate the uniqueness of each student during circle time with this special touch. In advance, create this snowflake wand using a sheet of one-inch foam, a 12-inch wooden dowel, two wiggle eyes, and red felt. To make the wand, use a serrated knife to cut out a snowflake from the foam. If desired, use the pattern on page 7 as a template. Insert the dowel into the bottom of the snowflake to create a handle. Then glue on the wiggle eyes and a felt mouth as shown.

Have students pass the wand around the circle while singing the tune below. Encourage the child holding the wand at the end of the verse to share something special about himself. Continue singing the verse until each child has had a turn to share.

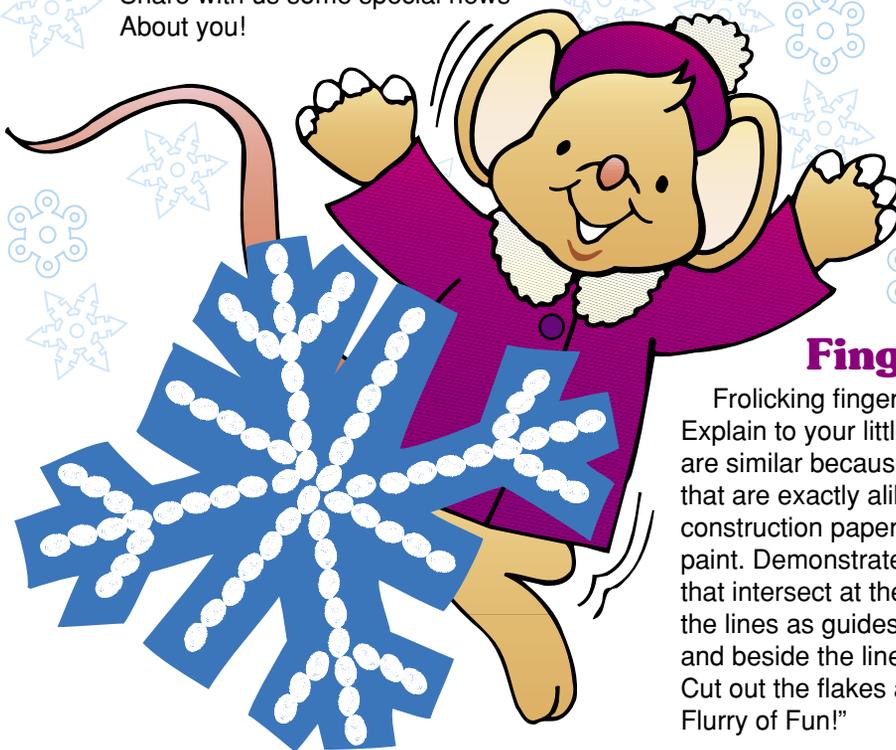
I'm Something Special

(sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Share with us some special news,
Special news, special news.
Share with us some special news
About you!



Pam Crane



Fingerprinting Flurry

Frolicking fingers make a flurry of snow in this activity. Explain to your little ones that fingerprints and snowflakes are similar because there are no two flakes nor fingerprints that are exactly alike. Give each child a sheet of dark-colored construction paper and provide access to white washable paint. Demonstrate how to draw on the paper several lines that intersect at the same point. Encourage the child to use the lines as guides and make fingerprints (or use toes!) along and beside the lines to create her own unique snowflake. Cut out the flakes and display them together with the title "A Flurry of Fun!"

A Snowstorm of Successes

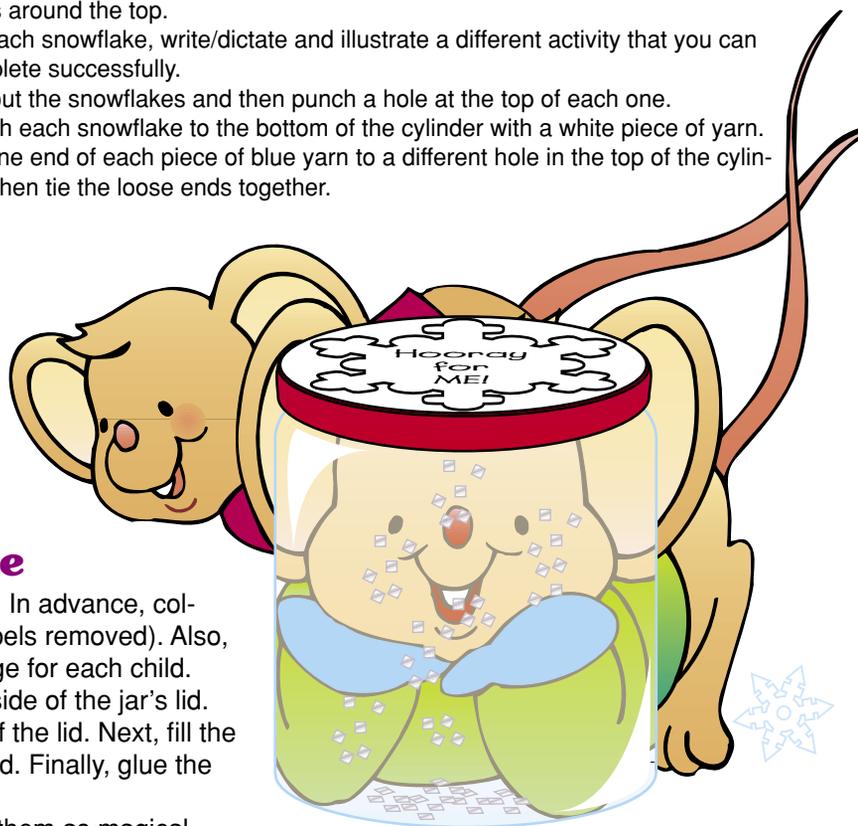
Many things make us unique. Often we are differentiated by things we can and cannot do. By focusing on the *cans* with this snowy mobile, your youngsters will be shoveling up mounds of self-esteem. Gather the materials listed below. Then assist each child in completing the directions. Hang the finished mobiles from your ceiling to create a constant reminder of "I can!" Wow, there's a real feeling of success in the air!

Materials for each student:

3" x 24" tagboard strip
4 copies of the snowflake pattern on page 7
4 pieces of white yarn cut in different lengths
3 pieces of blue yarn cut the same length
stapler
hole puncher
crayons

Directions:

1. Write your name and "can..." on the tagboard strip.
2. Staple the ends of the strip together to form a cylinder.
3. Punch four holes around the bottom of the cylinder and three holes around the top.
4. On each snowflake, write/dictate and illustrate a different activity that you can complete successfully.
5. Cut out the snowflakes and then punch a hole at the top of each one.
6. Attach each snowflake to the bottom of the cylinder with a white piece of yarn.
7. Tie one end of each piece of blue yarn to a different hole in the top of the cylinder; then tie the loose ends together.



A Blizzard of Praise

Shake up spirits with these rewarding jars of praise. In advance, collect a class supply of clean baby food jars (with the labels removed). Also, duplicate and cut out the snowflake pattern on this page for each child.

To make a praise jar, cut a child's photo to fit the inside of the jar's lid. Then laminate the photo and hot-glue it to the inside of the lid. Next, fill the jar with water, add some silver glitter, and secure the lid. Finally, glue the snowflake to the top of the lid.

Keep the jars on students' desks or tables and use them as magical, motivating rewards. To give praise and attention to a deserving child, simply turn his jar upside down. Now that's something to cheer about!

Double the Pleasure, Double the Fun

This version of the traditional memory game gets up close and personal to help students refine their visual-discrimination skills. To prepare the game, duplicate the snowflake cards on page 8 on tagboard and then cut them apart. Make two copies of each child's photograph. Cut out the duplicated photos and mount them on the tagboard cards. Mix the cards together and arrange them facedown on a tabletop. (If there are too many cards, divide them to make two games.) Then invite each child in a small group to try to find a matching pair. Look carefully!

Snowflake Pattern

