

Pictures for Reflection



Playing in the Snow and Much More: What do you see in the photographs? If you say you see children playing in the snow, you are correct, but take a closer look. Do you see the children planning, organizing, and communicating? Do you see the children physically committed, intellectually strategic, and emotionally engaged? Playing in the snow provides children with a range of opportunities to experience, explore, and enjoy cold weather. Snow play can be as an individual, as a small group or as a larger organized team; the snow is for all ages, stages, and varied skill levels. Building snow villages, ice skating, cross and down-hill skiing, ice sculpturing, ice fishing, snow shoe walking, and ice hockey playing provide a diverse range of children with choices, challenges, and cold noses. As children learn to adapt and enjoy their environment, they as well develop a respect for the natural world. This regard for nature allows children to grow in empathy and therefore better enable their stewardship of our planet (Hoot & Szente, 2010). Where do our children first realize this deep and profound insight, appreciating that they are an integral part of nature? This relationship with a winter world may begin when, as a very young child, they stick out their tongue and catch their first and most beautiful snowflake.