

EarlyON Child and Family Centre

SALT CRYSTAL ICICLE

Materials:

- Salt
- Mason jar/ Clear jar
(one for each crystal icicle)
- Hot Water
- Popsicle stick / Twig / Cotton String /
Cotton Yarn/ Pipe Cleaner
- Clothes Pins/ Twig/ Straw / Chop Stick/
Pencil/Marker/Crayon/Pen

Method/ Instructions:

1. Fill the jar with water and dump it into a pot. Heat up water.
2. When the water boils, start adding salt. Keep pouring it in until crystals start to form on the surface of the water (super saturated). It will take almost the entire container of salt for three snowflakes.
3. When the water is cooler, let the kids design pick their Popsicle stick / Twig / Cotton String / Cotton Yarn/ Pipe Cleaner. Make sure they can fit easily through the mouth of each jar.
4. Attach the Popsicle stick / Twig / Cotton String / Cotton Yarn/ Pipe Cleaner with string and tie to Clothes Pins/ Twig/ Straw / Chop Stick/ Pencil/Marker/Crayon/Pen.
5. Suspend the Popsicle stick / Twig / Cotton String / Cotton Yarn/ Pipe Cleaner in the saltwater. Let it sit in a sunny window for 2-3 days.
6. After 2-3 days, remove your snowflakes and let them dry. Your salt crystal icicle ready! Hang them from a window or just admire their beautiful designs!



Learning Outcomes/ Purpose of the Activity:

- Watching how materials change over time.
- Change also happens when mixing different materials together.
- Demonstrates how different temperatures help create crystals. When the water returns to room temperature, the crystals grow and return to their original state.
- Salt crystals form when a solution of water becomes over-saturated with salt. When you create a super-saturated solution, the salt crystals must go somewhere when the mixture cools and the water starts to evaporate.
- Over time, the crystals accumulate into larger and larger crystals.
- Taking risks helps with discovery and expanding one's knowledge of the world and your relationship to it.

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- Children practice self-regulation and turn taking and supports language, fine motor and cognitive development.
- Interactive multi aged activity
- Materials are cost effective and easily attainable and can be found around the home.

Extension of the Activity

- Add coloured food colouring to change the water colour
- Decorate the jar with stickers
- Try the experiment again with sugar and compare
- Use different materials for the icicle and compare the shapes and crystal

Recipe by <https://livingwellmom.com/salt-crystal-snowflakes/>

Image by <https://meaningfulmama.com/growing-salt-sugar-and-borax-crystals-is-a-lesson-in-patience.html>