



Frosty Fields



It's winter down on Tractor Ted's farm, and the fields are sparkling with frost. Help your children learn about frost, and have fun making these sparkly, process-based pictures.

THESE ACTIVITIES...

- helps children to explore and learn about frosty weather
- encourages fine motor skills, including squeezing, sprinkling and brushing
- encourages the creative exploration of colour and texture
- offers lots of opportunity for listening to and following instructions

What to do

Start off by talking about frosty weather, and make a link with the children's own experiences of frost. Whenever you get the chance, let them explore real frost in your outdoor space and look at photos of farms, foliage and spiders' webs covered with frost.

Explain to the children that you are going to use salt to make your own frosty pictures, and try the following:

Frosty fields: dilute ready-mixed paint with water. Add a little at a time until the paint is runny, but still has a strong colour. Offer icy colours such as white, pale grey, pale blue and pale green. Provide dark coloured card in landscape colours such as grey, olive green and brown, and let the children paint the card however they wish. While the paint is still wet, show them how to sprinkle on salt and shake off the excess. Once the salt is dry, compare the sparkly, frosty effect with photos of real frosty fields.

Frosty cobwebs: provide white PVA glue in small squeeze bottles and dark coloured card. Show the children how to squeeze trails of glue onto the card and sprinkle with a good quantity of salt. Shake off the excess salt and leave to dry. Compare the finished result with photos of frosted cobwebs, and real frosted cobwebs in the garden.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Let older children explore various ways of sprinkling the salt (shaker, spoon, small jug). Provide sponges and different-sized brushes so children can choose how to apply the paint.
- Make pale grey and pastel colours by adding tiny quantities of black, green and blue paint to a large quantity of white paint.
- Provide regular table salt and ground sea salt in larger flakes. Compare the different effects as the salt soaks up the water in the paint and dries out.
- These techniques can be used for adding frost to other countryside-themed pictures, including brown winter trees, evergreen leaves and yellow hay bales.
- If the weather is unseasonably warm and you haven't had any frosty mornings, let small groups of children examine frost in the freezer.
- Although traditional silver and white glitter make lovely frost effects, there are concerns about micro plastics polluting our oceans. Salt makes an effective and cheap alternative to plastic glitter frosting.



Using salt safely...

- Exploring through touch is usually an important part of learning, but it's best to discourage direct handling of the salt.
- Salt stings if it gets into eyes or cuts, so make sure children use shakers or spoons for sprinkling.
- Although children are unlikely to eat much of the salt, keep an eye out for any who try to taste it.
- Keep groups small so you can supervise closely, and rinse hands at the end of the activity.

