Bright & Icy Sculpture!
Cold, colorful fun

Play is a means of deep learning for young children. In Gaffield Children’s Garden, we provide rich, open-ended Nature Play experiences. We are committed to it, knowing that these experiences will become an essential part of the child, will be transformed into intellectual pursuits, imaginative pursuits, support physical and emotional health, and promote positive regard for the Earth now and into adulthood. We encourage families to participate and replicate what we do here, in their own homes, apartments, and parks. Here is a recipe for Nature Play at Home: Bright & Icy Sculpture!

SUPPLIES
- Must be below freezing outdoors for this play.
- Plastic containers, ice cube trays, shallow aluminum pans
- Food grade coloring dyes
- Twine, maybe
- Foraged natural items: leaves, seed pods and cones
- Pitchers of water, wooden spoon or spatulas

WAYS TO PLAY
- Bring supplies outdoors.
- Fill pans and containers with water.
- Mix in food coloring as desired.
- Add natural items as desired.
- Wait overnight.
- Remove icy blocks to create sculptures.

EXTEND THE PLAY
- Create sculptures in areas your neighbors can enjoy them.
- Make a sign that reads “Sculpture Park” and invite others to create from any extra icy blocks.
- Drape twine loops into the water during the freezing stage. Hang them up outdoors as icy nature mobiles.
- If snow has an icy glaze, set up some taller blocks as pins, and slide other blocks to knock them over in a bowling type of game.
- Use small colored ice cubes as ‘paint brushes’ on spare canvas or snow.

CONSIDER
- Once the ice blocks are frozen, remember to let the kiddos lead the way.
- There is no wrong way to play.
- Outdoor play is a natural way to foster children’s burgeoning understanding of themselves in relationship to the world.
- Spending time outdoors as a family fosters family identity, and a relationship with Nature.