

## Frozen Ocean Animal Rescue {salt, water, & ice play}

<https://mamapapabubba.com/2014/01/08/frozen-ocean-animal-rescue-salt-water-ice-play/>



Though it took a little bit of advanced planning, the activity was a breeze to set up. Using Miss G's collection of miniature ocean creatures, a few plastic aquarium plants, a plastic mixing bowl, tap water, and a few drops of food coloring, I created a 'frozen ocean' by freezing it in layers, adding a few more plants / animals and more water each time.



I also prepped a couple of fun things to help the melting process along – these old glue bottles filled with water and a drop or two of food coloring... And some colored salt which is simply made by shaking table salt and a one or two drops of liquid food coloring in a jar or bag.

Then I set everything out, along with some cutlery and mini tongs, in a great big shallow basin placed on an old shower curtain. Before getting started, we investigated the frozen ocean a bit and the munchkins pointed out all kinds of cool

creatures that needed help ‘getting unstuck’. Armed with their tools, the pair got started on their mission.



The water squirt bottles came out first... And then came out the salt. One thing that they quickly learned together was that if you sprinkled some salt on the ice and then quickly washed it away with a stream of water, the salt didn't have enough time to do its job. With some serious team work, scraping, sprinkling, and spraying, some of the trapped sea creatures began to come loose.



Every now and then, they'd flip the ice block over to see what was going on the other side of the ocean, and we were often surprised to see some nearly free creatures just needing a little tug to come loose. Throughout the activity I did fill their water squirters and salt containers up a few times, but I also encouraged them to reuse the water and salt that was at the bottom of the basin and to try using different scraping and chipping techniques too, which they were happy to do.