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promoting the value of play

Spring Thaw

Exceptional teachers extend learning experiences for young children. The story that follows comes from the experiences of a gifted teacher of kindergarten children.

"During outdoor winter play, several children filled a bucket with ice and asked to take it into the classroom. The teacher agreed, recognizing that the ice would make an interesting addition to the classroom as it melted. As the ice melted, one child was discouraged from drinking the water, with the teacher noting that they used water from the tap. The teacher also remarked that, in some countries, children do not have fresh water readily available. This last comment sparked a discussion about water, its availability, and its relationship to child health . . . an extended learning experience that didn't end there.