



Magic Tricks For The Month Of:

January

Change Bag:

- A black circle, orange triangle and a white oval go in and a penguin with those shapes (orange triangle beak, black head, and white oval belly) comes out. The children then transition to making their own Petey Penguins. (See my [January Penguin Unit for more details.](#))
- Put in snowflakes and pull out a snowman.
- Put in the hat, scarf, buttons, carrot and snowball pom poms or snowflakes and pull out a put-together snowman wearing those items.
- When I'm reading *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, I show the empty change bag. I let a child put the little white mitten in and we ask the change bag to please find the other one. I then produce two white mittens. I've often thought it would be a real "Wow!" if, like a magician, I would produce a little mouse, inside the mitten, but I'm not quite sure what I would do with the little guy once I produced him. Mice are sold at our local super food store for only \$1.50 so it's completely do-able and certainly a "Way cool!" thing but....

When handling live animals one must be very gentle, quick, and load seconds before the trick so you do not harm them.

Water Cylinder:

- **Water in,** ice cube out.
- I love doing this magic trick with my students! They see me pour a Dixie cup full of water into my silver cylinder.
- I tell them they better get the magic words right or they're going to get wet.
- The magic words are LIQUIDS turn into SOLIDS when they FREEZE. Then they clap their hands and say "Freeze!" and I throw the "water" at them.
- They duck and out plops an ice cube! They giggle and gasp and it is sooooo much fun to see their faces!
- I'm in the process of tracking down a supplier for this.
- You could possibly do it in a change bag if you put a little bit of water in a plastic cup, cut the thumb off a latex glove and rubberband it over the top, then put it gently in your bag, say the magic words and produce an ice cube in the same plastic cup.

Dove Pan:

I produce all the large plush snowmen/penguins/polar bears that I will need from my dove or dog pans. I use them for puppetry to introduce stories and generate discussions, ask questions after the story or explain things and give directions. I also give them to a child who gets a turn to talk. They then pass it to another child to give them a turn to talk. We often take this plush toy into the hallway during bathroom break to toss while waiting for other children.

When I read *Polar Bear Polar Bear What Do You Hear*, I produce all the flannel board pieces from the dove pan and pass them out to the children to sequence during the story.

When we are doing our mini unit on Martin Luther King, I read Dr. Seuss's *The Sneetchs*. (Kohl's For Kids™ had that book and a plush Sneech on sale, so I bought both for \$5 each!

- This goes for a great cause so watch for their offerings for this program because they have great deals for teachers.
- Last year they had the entire collection of Eric Carle's *What Do You See/Hear?* books with the brown bear, panda bear and polar bear plush to go along with them for only \$5 each!!! I of course went bananas and had to have all of them, even tho' I had paperback copies.) Anyway...Sorry to digress...
- I produce the bright yellow Sneetch complete with a star on his belly from my Dog pan.
- He hands out only a few stars to a few VIP's. The rest of course feel horrible and learn first hand what prejudice and not being treated fairly is all about.
- I then produce a few lollipops out of my change bag and pass those out to the children who did not get stars.
- Then I produce a bunch of stars and lollipops for each child from my dove pan. We have a great discussion of how awful it felt not getting a star or lollipop and promise to try and treat everyone fairly, and not be prejudiced because of color, creed, age, gender etc. Doing it this way and discussing our feelings really hits home with a child. They are all about being treated "fairly" and quick to yell "Hey! That's not fair!" (See my January MLK unit for more details.)