

Winter: Persistence

Animal Superheroes Curriculum

Series Overview

This Winter, we're focusing on **persistence**! Each lesson is designed to support a different aspect of persistence, inspired by the unique survival powers of a different "animal superhero."

As kids learn ways to be active outdoors and bring the outdoors in, they'll discover the magic of winter and how to play and learn outdoors *all four seasons*!

"Plants and animals don't fight the winter... They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through."

—Katherine May



Focus Skill: Persistence

Persistence is being able to stick with it and push through challenges to reach a goal, learn and grow. Babies are naturally persistent, and we can help kids remain so as they grow if we let them lead and take on challenges, getting chances to learn from both success and failure.

Read more about how kids develop persistence [here](#).



Lesson Map

The 9 core lessons are organized in three units:

1. Survivors and Thrivers: Play like amazing animals who survive the winter.
2. Hard Workers: Play like creatures who thrive through effort and repetition.
3. Clever Creators: Play like creatures who build and create.

[Download](#) a copy of the map.

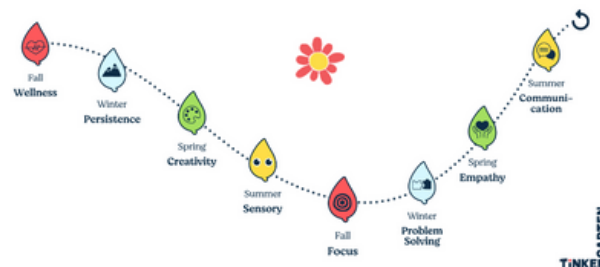


What is Tinkergarten?

Designed by experts, loved by teachers, parents and kids, Tinkergarten gets kids ages 1 1/2 to 8 learning outside. Kids who participate get the physical and mental benefits of increased time outdoors and build a lasting connection to nature. Tinkergarten lessons are designed to take place in home spaces, shared community green spaces, school settings and all of the places in between.

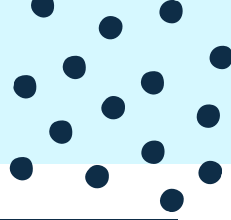
The Tinkergarten Learning Journey

As they progress through the program, children develop a strong foundation in 8 essential skills that kids need to become creative, caring and confident people who can thrive in a dynamic world. They can also participate in special events designed to spark joy and deepen kids' ties to their local biome and community.



Winter—Persistence

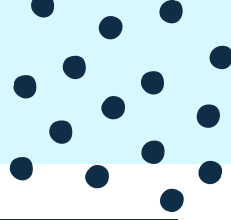
Series Curriculum Overview



	Lesson Title	Lesson Description	Persistence Focus
Pre Season	 Introductory Lesson Stone Soup	In our winter introductory lesson, we'll take inspiration from a classic tale as we transform stones, water and the natural treasures around us into a marvelous pretend soup.	Persistence Focus: Intro to Tinkergarten and Persistence Animal Superhero: Chimpanzee
Unit 1: Survivors and Thrivers	 Lesson 1 Meet the Superheroes	In the first lesson of winter Tinkergarten, we discover that we, too, are superheroes who can play outdoors all 4 seasons! We'll invite kids to use their superhero tools to persist outdoors and discover what is special about winter.	Persistence Focus: We Can Persist + Play Outdoors All 4! Animal Superhero: Explorer
	 Lesson 2 Frozen Friends	In honor of our most persistent frigid friend, the Ice Worm, we will explore frozen treats. We'll test different tools and strategies to free pretend worms from their frozen homes and excavate for objects locked inside of frozen treasures.	Persistence Focus: Exploring Strategies to Work Towards a Goal Animal Superhero: Ice Worm
	 Lesson 3 Hibernation Station	Groundhogs play a special role in a tradition tied to the arrival of Spring, but they also have a hibernation superpower to survive the winter. In this lesson we'll build cozy dens for pretend slumbering friends.	Persistence Focus: Pretending + Thinking Flexibly Helps Us Persist Animal Superhero: Groundhog
Unit 2: Hard Workers	 Lesson 4 Woodpecker's Work	This time, we get to play like woodpeckers, using tools to peck our way into various materials and the winter world around us. Like the work of our persistent friend the woodpecker, this lesson is all about the importance and power of repetition.	Persistence Focus: We Learn When We Practice and Repeat Animal Superhero: Pileated Woodpecker

Winter 2024—Persistence

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	Lesson Title	Lesson Description	Persistence Focus
Unit 2: Hard Workers	 Lesson 5 Push and Pull	Learning to use tools and strategies to overcome challenges is how kids learn to persist and discover their limits. In this lesson, we'll play like Alaskan Huskies and experiment with using different tools and methods to move heavy things.	Persistence Focus: Discovering Our Limits Through Hard Work Animal Superhero: Alaskan Husky
	 Lesson 6 Building Up	Just like the super-builder, Beaver, we will use what we have around us to build, and then if we want, knock down. As we build, we'll confront challenges and feelings if/when our constructions fail.	Persistence Focus: Persisting Through Challenges and Frustration Animal Superhero: Beaver
Unit 3: Clever Creators	 Lesson 7 Wonder Weaver	Just as spiders use their silk in many different ways to create, we welcome children to discover their favorite ways to create as they explore the many different ways they can play with pretend "silk" (i.e. colorful yarn).	Persistence Focus: Following Interests Supports Persistence Animal Superhero: Orb Weaver Spider
	 Lesson 8 Nest For Explorers	Nesting birds do mighty work to create a marvelous, cozy and safe home in which they can incubate, catch and raise babies. In this lesson, we'll explore how we can use teamwork to create a bird's nest big enough for explorers to fit inside.	Persistence Focus: Teamwork Helps Us Reach Our Goals Animal Superhero: Robin
	 Lesson 9 Super Celebration	In our final lesson of the series, we will throw a party to celebrate all of our animal superheroes and the Earth. We use what is around us to create a feast and make promises to protect the greatest superhero of all—the planet we call home!	Persistence Focus: Persisting in Our Efforts to Care for our Planet & Community Animal Superhero: Earth!