

Head Start for Kent County Community Day:

World of Winter Guidance for Families

Meeting Point:

Ah-Nab-Awen Park

10:30am on Friday, January 31st

220 Front Ave NW Grand Rapids

Look for Head Start site signs to find us!



Before **World of Winter**

Talk About It

Before you set out, chat with your family about what you're excited to see and learn. It will make the day even more fun and special for everyone! This helps children feel prepared, excited, and more engaged.

It also builds vocabulary and reduces anxiety about new experiences. **Talk about:**

- **What We'll See:** *"We're going to see beautiful art made with light!"*
- **How We'll Feel:** *"It will be cold outside, but our warm clothes will help."*
- **What We'll Do:** *"We can take pictures of our favorite art." "We'll walk together and explore like adventurers."*
- **Safety Rules:** *"We'll stay together like a team."*
- **Emotions and Expectations:** *"What are you most excited to see?" "We can take breaks whenever you need to."*

Packing Items

For a fun day at World of Winter in downtown Grand Rapids, don't forget to bring:

- ✓ **Lots of Layers:** It may be cold! Don't forget a warm coat and hats and mittens.
- ✓ **Comfortable Shoes or Boots:** For lots of walking!
- ✓ **Light Backpack:** To carry your things.

Plan for Transportation

HS4KC will not provide transportation or reimburse costs.

Consider car-pooling or using public transportation.

Decide What to See

- Use this **map** to see the art that will be on display and where each is located.
[Art Installations | World of Winter 2025](#)
- Check out the **World of Winter Website:**
[World of Winter 2025 | Largest Winter Festival in the U.S.](#)

During **World of Winter**

Our staff will meet you at the park to help you connect with other families and provide a light snack for your walk.

Explore World of Winter with your family:

Simple Questions to Spark Conversation

- *"What colors do you see?"*
- *"Does this remind you of anything?"*
- *"How do you think they made this?"*

- "What's your favorite part?"
- "If this art could make a sound, what would it sound like?"

Movement Activities to Stay Warm While Looking

- "Can you make your body look like this sculpture?"
- "Let's walk around it and count our steps"
- "Can you show me with your arms how big it is?"
- "Let's pretend to be the artist creating this"
- "Should we dance like the colors in this light?"

Making Connections

- **Connect to familiar things:** "This reminds me of your book about..."
- **Link to experiences:** "Remember when we saw ice like this at..."
- **Compare artworks:** "Is this one bigger or smaller than the last one?"
- **Share feelings:** "How does this artwork make you feel?"
- **Imagine stories:** "What story do you think this art is telling?"

Making Memories

- Take photos of your child next to favorite pieces
- Draw pictures of the art when you get home
- Create a simple scrapbook of the experience
- Record your child's thoughts about each piece

Remember:

- Short bursts of engagement are perfect for young children
- There's no "right way" to look at art
- **Focus on fun** and connection over art education
- Let your child's interest guide the experience

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

- **If it's very cold:** "Let's pick our favorite piece quickly!"
- **If they're getting tired:** "Should we make up a silly story about this last one?"
- **If they're distracted:** "Can you find something blue in this artwork?"
- **If they want to touch (and shouldn't):** "Let's pretend we're touching it with our magic wand."
- **If they're ready to leave:** "Should we take one last photo with your favorite piece?"

After *World of Winter*

Keep the Art Talk Going

Keep talking about the art themes and ideas from World of Winter. These conversations help kids remember what they've learned and keep them excited about art.

Come Back Again! The best time to experience the light-based installations is after 5:30 PM. Most events take place Thursday through Saturday.

Why We Engage This Way:

Playing and talking about art with your child in winter isn't just fun - it helps them grow and learn!

When you explore together, lots of good things happen:

- Your child learns new words by talking about what they see
- They get better at moving their body as they walk in snow and look at art
- They learn it's fun to be outside in winter
- They become braver about trying new things
- Their imagination grows stronger
- They learn how to share their ideas and feelings
- You both grow closer by sharing special moments
- They start to enjoy art early in life