





## Reviewing Small-Medium & Large With **Snowman Circle Snow Prints**

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### **Background:**

I am always looking for hands-on ways to teach things to little ones. Since they LOVE painting and stamping I thought reviewing the concept of small, medium and large to make a picture would be fun for them.

My mantra for teachers who come to my workshops is, *"When you find something interesting ask yourself, 'What can I do with this?'"* That's what I did when I looked at these mini squishie balls. I paint with sponges, so I immediately thought they would make a cool design. When I experimented, the effect was a blizzard look, so they went perfectly with the circle stamping.

### **Materials:**

- Blue or white construction paper
- White paint. I use Anita's metallic white paint because it has an opalescent "snowy" look and dries fast. It's less than a dollar a bottle at craft stores.
- Various cap sizes. For the larger 5x7 black one, I used a water bottle cap, a milk cap and a large vitamin bottle cap. For the smaller blue 5 ½ x 4 print, I used a large and small Elmer's glue stick cap, and a Crayola watercolor marker cap.
- Mini squishie balls with spikes. I have no idea what these are really called. They sell them at party and novelty stores in the "prize and party favor" sections. I have also found them at The Dollar Store.

### **Directions:**

1. Review small, medium and large with your students.
2. Review ordinal number steps with your students. First do the small head, second the middle medium tummy, 3<sup>rd</sup> and last, do the large bottom tummy.
3. I set this up as a center on a table and have the pre-cut papers at the table.
4. Students write their name on the bottom of their paper with a white crayon.
5. If you have really little ones, who write their names really big, have them write it on the back.

6. Students will have no problem hanging on to the glue stick and marker caps, but if you use flatter caps, make sure you glue a holder for them to grasp or they will get their fingers full of paint and transfer the mess to their print. They will also drop the caps and make an all around mess at the center.
7. I have glued tiny spools of wood or mini blocks to the tops of caps and stamps. You can buy them for less than a quarter at craft stores. Make sure you use plastic and foam glue. E6000 works on just about anything.
8. Put a dollop of paint on a small paper plate. Swirl it into a puddle that is big enough to cover your largest circle. Keep an eye on the center to refill the puddle.
9. Do not let students pour more paint on the plate, as little ones tend to dump on too much and you don't get a circle stamp, but a big blob of drippy paint.
10. Have several "squishies" available in case a student loads too much paint on one and "ruins" it.
11. Model how to make "squishie snow" by gently dabbing it into the paint puddle so that you only get paint on the TIPS.
12. Show them that you also gently dab just the TIPS on their paper and not smash the entire ball down, or they won't get zillions of little snowflakes.
13. I show them "squishie snow" done correctly and "squishie snow" that is blobbed and smashed on. They get the idea and do much better at the center.
14. You could also put a scratch "practice" piece of paper at the station for them to "test" their talents before they make "squishie snow" on their paper.
15. Set papers aside to dry.
16. The smaller ones look lovely glued to a paper snowflake and hung from the ceiling.
17. You could opt for students to add facial features with a Q-tip, but I like keeping them as is.
- 18. If you put them on a bulletin board your caption could read: "*Barge into January, with a blizzard of small-medium-and large!*"**







