



## 24 Fun Things to Do as a Family This Winter

Beth Wegerbauer

The winter months pose a challenge in keeping youngsters occupied, but here are some easy ways to stay active and have fun as a family!

### Outdoor Activities

1. Build a snowman. Half the fun is finding everything you need to accessorize them, like different materials for the eyes, mouth, and nose, plus a hat, broom, and pipe. Afterwards, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and snuggle up to read *That's All You Need for a Snowman*, or *Snowmen At Night*. Or, read the classic story *The Snowman* and then watch the movie version together.
2. Go sledding!
3. Have a snowball fight. Or, if it's really that cold out, ball up some socks and use them for "snowballs" instead.
4. Measure the snowfall.
5. Go ice skating together.
6. Make snow angels and watch the snow fall together.
7. Shovel the driveway or sidewalk together. If you have a kid-sized shovel, even better!
8. Build a snow fort together, or use sheets or boxes to build a fort inside your house.
9. Bundle up and take a walk during a snowstorm.
10. Make a graph showing each day's hi and low temperatures.

### Indoor Activities

1. Have an indoor beach party! Break out your Hawaiian shirts, straw hats, and have the kids wear their bathing suits over their clothes. Spread out your beach towels or blankets on the floor and pretend you're at the beach.
2. Make your own dance party---get our your favorite CDs or turn up the radio and dance, dance, dance!
3. Have a great game of hide and seek.
4. Watch a fitness video or DVD, or turn on the Fitness Channel and work out together.
5. Try to memorize the alphabet backwards. Who can say it first?
6. Create a scavenger hunt.
7. Play board games, like Twister, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, or Candy Land.
8. Play restaurant. Take turns being the waiter, customer, and chef, where someone orders the food, and someone else prepares and serves it. It's a great opportunity to practice table manners.

9. Make paper snowflakes from construction paper or tissue paper. Find easy templates online.
10. Go bowling.
11. Make a pine cone bird feeder---spread peanut butter on pine cones and sprinkle them with bird seed or bits of dry cereal or bread. Hang them from varying heights on the trees around your windows, then sit back and watch what happens.
12. Visit your local library and check out books on winter themes.
13. Draw and color a mural showing a winter scene.
14. Collect old winter coats from family members and friends. Then donate them to a local charity.

*Beth Wegerbauer is Co-Owner of Building Blocks and the mom of 4 kids who love the winter!*