

Family Literacy Fun!



TALK

- Go for a walk as a family and talk about what you see
- Talk to your child about what you're doing. Example: "First I'm going to chop the onions, then I will add the tomatoes"
- A car ride is the perfect opportunity to practice literacy. Read signs, billboards and license plates together, or count the number of yellow cars

SING

- Sing songs and nursery rhymes while getting dressed, eating, driving and getting ready for bed
- * Singing encourages learning patterns of words, rhymes and rhythms, and is strongly connected to language skills.

WRITE

- Let your child try to dress and feed themselves. They are working on developing fine motor skills
- Give your child materials to scribble, paint and draw
- Write a few words to describe their drawing. This is a great way to model writing for them!

READ

- Make reading together a special activity. Make some hot chocolate, cuddle up and read together!
- Fill a scrapbook with pictures of a family event
- Children follow by example, so ensure reading is part of your daily life too!

PLAY

- Play counting games. Example: "Can you get THREE spoons from the drawer, please?"
- Participate in your child's play. If your child is pretending to cook you dinner, go along with it, and ask questions or make special requests.



Winter Fun Activities



Tic-Tac-Snow -Two players go for the championship in this classic game. Use crisscrossed sticks and pinecones as game pieces.

Snow Graffiti -Give kids spray bottles full of water that's tinted with food coloring to decorate the white canvas in your backyard.

Ice Maker -When the temperature drops below 32 degrees, blow bubbles and watch them freeze on the wand.



For the Birds -Hollow out an orange and fill with seeds to feed your feathered friends.

Cool Critters -Use bits of nature to embellish animals sculpted from snow.

Hoop It Up -Grab a few hula hoops and have a contest to see who can last the longest. It's a lot harder when you're all bundled up!

For the Birds -String cranberries, popcorn, and cereal onto fishing line for a garland to attract and nourish your feathered friends.

Cold Molds -Borrow some pans from the kitchen. Use them to build crystal fairy castles or to create cakes for a cold-weather "buffet."

A Sweet Chalet -Decorate your playhouse with laminated paper snowflakes, pinwheels, and a wreath dotted with plastic ponytail holders.

Ice and Easy -Freeze colored water into ice cubes, then hide them around the yard for a wintertime scavenger hunt.

Frosty Toss -Have a snowball-throwing contest! Make a target by creating a bright circle in the snow with colored water in a squirt bottle.

Sugar Daddy -Give your friendly snowman a candy-coated makeover with licorice, lollipops, and gummies.

Build a Fort -Build a fort. Use sand buckets, loaf pans, and cut-up empty milk cartons to make a cool snow castle.



Go Tubing -Beach [toys](#) aren't just for sand. Have your kids sit in inner tubes and then race to the finish line using just their feet.

Swing Away -Make a golf course by packing down a section of snow every few feet. Bury tin cans halfway down in the snow to create holes, and mark them with mini flagsticks.

Pin the Smile on the Snowman -Pass out chocolate cookies, then blindfold each child and let him try to get the mouth, eyes, and buttons in place.

Practice Your Pitch -Paint a bull's-eye target on a piece of cardboard, giving each colored ring a point value. Attach it to a tree, and keep score as the kids try to hit the target with snowballs.

Walk this way. Have your kids follow your lead as you move like different animals: Waddle like a penguin, stomp like a bear, and wiggle like a fish.

Create a maze -Put on your hiking boots and stamp out a path for your kids to follow.

Plan a scavenger hunt -Hide an apple in a mound of snow so that a little bit peeks out. Give the kids silly directions to follow as they search for it.

Play freeze tag -Can you think of a more appropriate game for a chilly day? Once someone's tagged by the person who's "It," he has to stay frozen until another player tags him again.

Make faces -Use handfuls of packed snow to create funny characters on a tree trunk.

