

55 Winter Programming Ideas

Cool Critters – Use bits of nature including twigs, cones, berries and leaves to embellish animals or creatures sculpted from snow



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



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



Snow Graffiti - Fill spray bottles full of water that's tinted with food coloring to decorate the white canvas of the school yard



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



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



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



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.



Pin the Smile on the Snowman - Pass out loose parts, then blindfold each child and let them 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.



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.



Obstacle course – Run around patio chairs, jump through hula hoops, weave through cones, do five jumping jacks...whatever it takes to get them moving in this old-school yard game!



Snow catapult - Build a snow catapult with a piece of wood and loose parts for launching snowballs.



Play Hopscotch – By jumping and creating footprints in fresh snow. Have the group follow your footprints, trying not to fall out of them!



Freeze water balloons – If the temps are low enough, fill water balloons and let them sit out overnight. Pop them the next day for a fun game of ice bowling.



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



Go snowshoeing – Borrow the snow shoes from AD Camp for a new experience



Shovel - There is so much gross motor in shoveling. Provide real large shovels to explore.



Watch your breath – A frosty morning? Try blowing your breath in the air. Who can make the biggest cloud?



Make Igloos- Form ice blocks to build an amazing igloo



Catch snowflakes - on your tongue, or on a black piece of Bristol board



Play a game of bowling - using snowballs and loose parts.



Measure fresh snowfall – Using what ever you can find collect snow overnight and take out measuring tapes in the morning to see how much snow you collected. Make a chart to track snow falls.



Have a winter picnic – Who says we can't eat outside. Find a tarp or nice space to have a picnic outside



Have a sled-pulling contest – Who’s the faster? Do it in pairs, or large teams.



Have a snowball throwing contest – Who can throw it the furthest, hit the target etc.



Biggest Snowball –Have a contest to see who can roll the biggest snowball.



Snow literacy- Practice writing letters, drawing shapes, or making designs in the snow with a stick (or make it a gross motor activity by shuffling feet through the snow to make large letters, shapes, and designs).



Nature Collections – Can you find 10? 20? 100? Bring them in and use some glue to make an art project.



Buried in the Snow - Bury your friend in the snow so only their face is showing!



Color hunt – Pick a color aaaannnndd GO. Find as many things with that color as you can. Green and brown are easy ways to start



Make ice blocks for chiseling - Freeze some of your mini toys in ice trays, hide them around the yard, and have a scavenger hunt! Come inside and put them in a bowl of hot water to watch them melt for more fun!



Snow Volcano- Explore science with this fun volcano in the snow.

<https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2013/12/how-to-make-snow-volcano.html>



Draw in the snow with sticks. Create patterns, or offer challenges- draw a dragon etc.



Snow Shower. Stand under branches with caps of snow and shake the tree and branches for a snow shower.



Animal Prints. Learn to identify animals by footprints on the snow



Monster Feet. Create handmade snowshoes in different shapes and sizes then head outside to see the tracks you can make.



Paint a Snowman- Bring out the spray bottles with food colour for this vibrant snow activity



Ice Ordaments- Decorate dishes of ice and loose parts and hang on trees



Ice Lanterns. Explore light outside by placing tealights in the snow.



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

Snow Math - Measure your body with snowballs. Measure snow angels

Capture the flag – Remember this how this game is played from summer camp? If you've got the entire family together (or a few neighborhood kiddos) then pull the rules from your iPhone.

Icicle Javelin – Find large icicles and play a game to see who can throw the farthest without their icicle breaking.

Simon says – Simon says, "Do 10 jumping jacks!"

A-Z walk – An acorn, a bottle, a Christmas tree a dog...take a neighborhood alphabet walk to see what you can find.

Dance Party - Make a conga line and dance in the snow! Or, try this fun [Snow Dance](#) activity!

Hot Potato - Play hot potato with a snowball!

Treasure hunt- Bury a treasure box to find when the snow melts...dig deep!

Garbage Collection - Fill some trash bags with snow and let your little one pretend they are the garbage man filling up and pulling their "garbage truck" (sled) as they go!

Slip and Slide - Bust out that slip and slide, no water required!

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.

Snowy Road – Create a road in the snow with stop signs, turns and speed limits for the children to go thru or drive cars thru