

Outdoor family activities for kids in winter

Here you'll find ideas that need no preparation and just a few that need a little bit of preparation. Most will be free and use things you already have around the home.

All of them can be done in your garden, the local woods or park.



1. Take a penny hike

This is a really simple and fun outdoor activity for children all year round. Simply use a coin to decide which way to go on a walk. Head could be left and tails could be right. You could end up going round in circles but you could also find somewhere new that you've never noticed before in a really familiar location.

2. Try Geocaching

[Geocaching with kids](#) is great fun all year round but sometimes in winter you need a push to get outside. A treasure hunt is always a winner. You can go out specifically to find them, other times when out walking, why not open the app to see if there are any nearby. You'd be amazed how often there are opportunities for geocaching.

3. Ice Painting

Have you ever tried ice painting? It's great in the winter as the ice doesn't melt too fast. To make ice paint - freeze coloured water (food colouring) in ice cube trays with sticks in and then you have painting sticks ready for your child!



4. Leave a trail of food for animals

Winter is a great time to start encouraging wildlife into your garden. You could also leave a trail of food whilst you are out walking.

5. Drink Hot Chocolate outside

Is there a better way to warm up whilst playing outdoors or on a family walk? Take a flask of hot chocolate on a walk. You could even take marshmallows to add to it too.

6. Frozen Bubbles

If the temperatures drop below freezing then get out the bubbles. Frozen bubbles are simply beautiful. You could blow bubbles into a bowl with a paper straw. A thin layer of ice soon appears on every bubble. The ice appears to float and slide along the surface of the bubble.

The bubbles form crystals, freeze, then completely collapse into shimmering fragments. You can also use bubble wands to blow bubbles the old-fashioned way. The bubbles freeze mid-air, explode, then drop to the ground. Sometimes, a bubble may cling to a hedge or bounce along the surface of the ground like a ball, until it shatters. For best results and longer-lasting frozen bubbles, blow the bubbles in an area shielded from the wind.



7. Puddle jumping!

I don't think this one needs any explanation. Kids love puddles and winter usually means you are going to find plenty of puddles about.

8. Go on a winter scavenger hunt

Family walks are a great winter activity. Just make sure you are wrapped up well and have some ideas for fun things to do on a walk with kids up your sleeve like a winter scavenger hunt.

9. Matchbox Challenge

The matchbox challenge is another great walking activity for kids. Simply give your child an empty matchbox and get them to see how many items they can collect and fit into it during one of your walks.

10. Ice Sculptures

Freeze water mixed with food colouring in ice cube trays. The children will then have great fun stacking them and making sculptures. Aren't these beautiful?



11. Have a Winter Picnic

Picnics aren't just for summer but you may want to change the food you take. A thermal filled with soup will always be welcome on a cold winter's walk.

12. Make a Stick Maze

At this time of year there are always lots of sticks on the ground. A great activity is to gather some up and create your own stick maze. If you make it big enough, challenge someone to find their way to the middle.



13. Go for torchlight Walk

With the early dark nights winter is the perfect time to take a torch lit walk.

14. Climb a Tree

A fun outdoor activity for kids at any time of year.

15. Make a pine cone bird feeder

Take a length of string or twine about 10 cm long and use it to make a loop for hanging the pine cone up. To do this start by tying the string in the middle, around the top of the pine cone. Then tie the two ends together to form a loop.

Next, spoon the peanut butter on to the pine cone and use a knife to spread it around the pine cone.

Spread some bird seeds out on a plate and then roll the pine cone in them so the seeds stick to the peanut butter.

Take the peanut butter bird feeder outside and hang it up in the garden. Then watch the birds come to feed.



16. Animal Track Hunt

This works well in either mud or snow. Can you find any animal foot prints to track? What animal do you think made the trail?

