

Winter Indoor and Outdoor Activities

Here are some ideas for safe and engaging indoor and outdoor activities to do as a student home in the winter months:

Indoor:

- **Go camping (inside)** – Build forts or tents with blankets and pillows, decorate the space like the outdoors, use flashlights to read books or tell stories.
- **Cook and bake together** – Take turns suggesting meals and desserts to make together. Turn it into a bake-off challenge.
- **Plan an art show** – Arts and craft time can be the makings of an organized art show to display all the great work.
- **Science in the kitchen** – Turn everyday kitchen items into experiments. [ThoughtCo](#) offers some activities to start.
- **Create an indoor scavenger hunt** – Hide clues around the house to keep the students guessing and working together to solve riddles. Maybe there can be a prize at the end!
- **Start a student home book club or read a book together out loud.** Create a reading nook as a special place to go for silent reading with comfortable blankets and pillows.
- **Create an obstacle course** – Using items found around the student home, such as tape, string, really anything you can think of to create a challenge course that tests the students balance, attention, and problem solving. [Check out this idea for a laser maze.](#)
- **Cut out paper snowflakes and design a winter wonderland inside.**
- **Start a pen pal chain with another student home** – Encourage the students to get to know a new friend in another student home or in another division. They can start the conversation by asking about their Christmas Break and what they still would like to accomplish during this school year.
- **Have a dance party** – Move the furniture to make the dance floor. Play favorite tunes or party like it's 1921 and learn the Charleston. You could even make it a formal affair and dress up for the occasion. [Click here to learn how to teach the dance.](#) [Click here to listen to the Milton Hershey School 2021 Spotify playlist.](#)
- **Get to know each other even better with Would You Rather conversations.** [Here are some questions to get the game started.](#)
- **Have a pajama day** – Spend the day in pajamas or comfy clothes, watch movies, read books, or bake cookies.
- **Watch a movie** – Pop popcorn and watch favorite movies.
- **Host a game night** – Pull out the board games and challenge each other. You could even turn game night into a tournament.
- **Stay active** – Check out these [free online suggestions](#) to burn off energy.

Outdoor:

- **Go for hikes and nature walks on campus or local trails** - Put together a winter/nature themed scavenger hunt to do along the way.
- **Enjoy snow activities** - If/when it snows, have a snowball fight, build a snowman, snow fort, or igloo, and go sledding.
- **Roast marshmallows** - Whether you have a firepit or a grill, fire it up and toast some marshmallows. Enjoy as s'mores or in hot chocolate after coming in from a full day of sledding. [Here are some smores dessert recipes.](#)
- **Paint the snow** - Fill spray bottles with water and food coloring and create snow art.
- **Make and hang [homemade bird feeders](#) in the backyard.** Wait and watch for visitors.

For more indoor and outdoor ideas, visit [Today's Parent](#).