

SNOW DAY!

Snow play!

Straight up, classic winter!



Play is a means of deep learning for young children. In Gaffield Children's Garden, we provide rich, open-ended Nature Play experiences. We are committed to it, knowing that these experiences will become an essential part of the child, will be transformed into intellectual pursuits, imaginative pursuits, support physical and emotional health, and promote positive regard for the Earth now and into adulthood. We encourage families to participate and replicate what we do here, in their own homes, apartments, and parks. Here is a recipe: **Nature Play at Home: Snow Day, Snow Play!**

WAYS TO PLAY

- I don't really need to remind you; you remember, don't you?
- Dress in layers for the weather. Littles generally need more layers than adults.
- Consider tucking extra mittens in pockets.
- If you have access to some type of commercial hand-warmers, tuck those in pockets.
- Maybe set out some mugs and tea or cocoa for easy access once y'all come back indoors.



WAYS TO PLAY

- Try sledding. Don't have a sled? Grab a big piece of cardboard out of a recycling bin.
- Build something with the snow: Snow people, snow dogs, abstract sculpture, a fort or burrow.
- Bring out cardboard or plastic boxes to pack with snow and make bricks for stacking.
- Adults can carefully break icicles off building eaves to be handed off to kiddos for more building fun.
- Bring out some toy figurines, machines to add to snow fort play.

EXTEND THE PLAY

- Find an icy patch on a sidewalk, driveway or parking area and try 'skating' by simply slipping and sliding across the ice in your boots or sneakers.
- If you are near a body of water, [check local news for reports on ice safety.](#)
- Some people build ice rinks in their backyard!
- 'Snow shoes' can be made from boxes and rubber bands to play 'Arctic Explorer.'
- Make 'snow angels' by laying down in the snow and rubbing legs and hands back and forth.

CONSIDER

- There is no wrong way to play.
- After introducing the concept, let the children lead the play.
- After coming back in to warm up, consider reading a winter themed book and having a warm tea or cocoa.
- We like *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, *Snow* by Uri Shulevitz, *Over and Under the Snow* by Messner and Neal, and *Good Morning Snowplow* by Bruss and Johnson.
- Set the mittens, hats and socks in the dryer or near the heat vent to warm and dry -- ready to go back out again!

