YOUTH
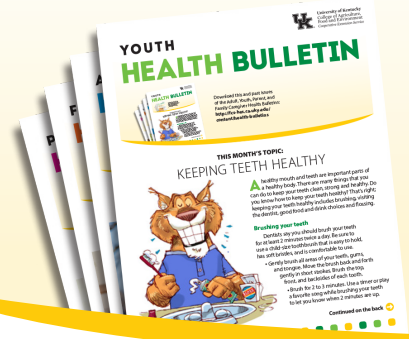# HEALTH BULLETIN

JANUARY 2025

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC
DON'T LET THE COLD KEEP YOU IN

There is so much fun to have playing outdoors, even in the cold! If you are dressed for the weather, there is no reason to let wintertime end your outdoor fun. There are some games and activities that are more fun, or only possible, in the winter.

Dress for the weather

If it is wet, wear:
• rain boots,
• rain jacket and pants, or rain suit.

If it is cold, wear:
• layers of tops and bottoms to stay warm,
• a coat,

- hat,
- gloves,
- socks,
- shoes like sneakers or boots.

If it is snowy, or both wet and cold, wear outer layers to keep you dry and inner layers to keep you warm. A snowsuit or coveralls may be helpful.

Looking for some fun ways to play outside this winter? Try these!

Igloo building: Frozen fun in low temperature.

- **You'll need:** Clean plastic containers (food-storage tubs like cottage cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- **What to do:** When it is below 32 degrees, fill the containers with water and set them outside to freeze. When they are frozen solid, peel away the cartons or dip the plastic containers in warm water to free the ice block. While wearing mittens or gloves to protect from the cold ice, stack and build with the ice blocks to form buildings or other desired shapes.

Snow olympics: Gather your siblings and friends for some cold competitions.

- **Long Jump:** Draw a starting line in the snow. Everyone stands at the starting line and jumps as far as they can. Compare footprints to see who jumped the farthest.

- **Snowball Throw:** Everyone forms their own snowball and stands at a starting line to see how far they can throw their snowballs.
- **Snow Pile Hurdles:** Make piles of snow in a line, with spaces in between. Everyone will run through the area jumping over the piles as they come to them. You can do this as a race or a timed event and compare times.

Snow pies: Create a natural masterpiece for outdoor creatures to enjoy.

- **You'll need:** Clean aluminum pie pans or some sort of flat round container for each person, sandbox toys like small shovels or scoops, and natural materials like sticks, leaves, berries, nuts, pine cones or birdseed.
- **What to do:** Use sand toys to create your own nature snow pies in the aluminum pie plate or other container. Decorate or layer snow with natural materials to make a masterpiece. Leave your pie out for wild creatures such as squirrels or birds to enjoy, as well!

REFERENCE:
https://extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare/content-areas/environment-curriculum/activities/all-activities/outdoor-play-on-winter-days

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