**Making Life More Fun**

**The Wonder of Winter, Whatever the Weather**

(NAPS)—Even when the days become shorter and the nights become colder, there is joy for fun. Creating some special traditions specific to each season can be a great way to spend time with loved ones. Activities and games inspired by the idea of the transformation that winter makes can lead to hours of entertainment and can help you and your children understand how and why the seasons change.

Here are some fun ideas for activities that parents can use to help organize for their kids and their friends or participate in together as a family adventure.

**Outside Activities**—

**Snow**

Snow art: Put a few drops of food coloring into spray-top water bottles and use snow as the canvas for your children to make works of art. Creating some special traditions specific to each season can be a great way to spend time with loved ones. Activities and games inspired by the idea of the transformation that winter makes can lead to hours of entertainment and can help you and your children understand how and why the seasons change.

**No Snow**

**Heads up snowman**

Take the window out of the chilly weather with hot beverages and cozy snacks to enjoy outdoors.

**Without Snow**

**Frosty**

Frosty can visit your home or be a fun Frosty be brought in. Frosty is the color of the day, and the children can enjoy the chilly weather with hot beverages and cozy snacks to enjoy outdoors.

**Snowball toss**

Place a hula hoop on the ground as the target for the kids to aim for. Divide into teams and race against the clock (one minute) to see which team can get the most “snow balls”—crumpled up tissue paper—into the hoop.

**Winter clothes**

Winter clothes: Bundle up for cold weather in this obstacle relay race. Place a pile of clothes in front of each team’s obstacle course starting line. On “go!” the first player quickly puts on the clothes and races through the course, returning to the starting line. Then the player takes off the winter clothes and hands them to the next teammate, continuing until each bundled-up teammate has completed the course. The team that finishes first is the winner.

**Indoor Activities**

**Movie night**

Spend a night indoor and enjoy a fun family movie that is both an entertaining and learning experience. A brand-new animated film from Disney can be a great way to inspire kids to explore the delights of snow and to delve into their curious minds. Starring Tinker Bell and a winter fairyland where a new world of adventure unfolds. For more information, visit www.disney.com/SecretsOfTheWings.

**Winter-themed bingo and Pictionary**

Create unique bingo cards on the computer with winter word or image squares (for example, plow, scarf, ice, snowflake) or check online for free winter-themed bingo cards available for downloading. Kids can play solo or in teams to be the first to complete a full line on a card and call out “Bing!” To continue the theme, split the kids into teams, write down winter-related words and choose one to use as the center of the knob. The generator turns on when you power over an entire home. Learn more at www.KohlerSmartPower.com.

American homeowners get offers from house buyers all over the world.

**When Selling Your Home — Think Globally**

(NAPS)—When listing a home, sellers typically expect curious neighbors to stop by during an open house, but who is likely to actually purchase that home may surprise them. Rather than buyers from down the street or even across the country, a growing number of sellers are seeing their homes purchased by buyers from the other side of the world.

According to the National Association of REALTORS (NAR) Profile of International Home Buying Activity, the percentage of international sales increased by over 24 percent in the past year. With the current changes in the global economy, more homes in the U.S. are purchased by international buyers than ever, raising the total volume of sales to international clients from $66.4 billion to $88.5 billion.

**Marketing Real Estate to International Buyers**

Because of the current international landscape, it’s important for today’s homeowners to enlist the help of real estate professionals capable of marketing their property globally. For example, the CENTURY 21® System has a network of over 100,000 real estate professionals serving 73 different countries and territories worldwide.

**Tips for Appealing to Potential Buyers Abroad**

**Plant the Home’s best features**

Highlight such attributes as proximity to top schools and colleges, international businesses, transportation hubs and vacation spots.

**Work with the right professional**

Look for a real estate professional who excels in working with international buyers and has accreditations as the NAR Global REALTOR® Specialist designation, which equips real estate professionals with the tools to be experts on exchange rates, cultural matters and international sales increased by over 24 percent in the past year. With the current changes in the global economy, more homes in the U.S. are purchased by international buyers than ever, raising the total volume of sales to international clients from $66.4 billion to $88.5 billion.

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