

Fun Ideas for Family Engagement

JANUARY

Winter Family Fun: Indoor Early Learning Experiences

With winter in full swing, the cold weather often keeps families indoors. Here are some ideas for teachers and providers to share with parents and families for creative early learning experiences at home:

Indoor Campout

Set up small tents or make tents with sheets in the living room or family room. Have the children set up sleeping bags inside the tents to get ready for an overnight campout. Make traditional camping foods like hot dogs and [s'mores](#). After dinner and snacks, settle around the campsite and tell [stories](#) or start planning for summer fun. Tip: Include a calendar where children can log their summer plans by month.

An Old-Fashioned Game Night

Dollar stores and other discount retailers sell old-fashioned puzzles, cards, and board games that would be great for family night. For board games, set the stage in the living room, family room or basement with beanbags, cushions or extra-comfortable pillows on the floor. For puzzles, spread the pieces across a coffee table. Tip: Select games that require quick and easy math so the children can keep score.

Royal Family Fun Night

Turn a formal dinner into a fun family night. Cook dinner together and [set the table](#) with nice dishes, cloth napkins and utensils. Before sitting down to eat, dress up in formal attire. [Practice manners and etiquette](#) throughout dinner. Pretend to be a royal family with accents when asking someone to pass a dish. For dessert, have tea, English cucumber sandwiches, or mini apple scones. This elegant family dinner will create some great memories while also teaching important lessons that will last a lifetime.

