With the winter months fast approaching children want to be outside to play, however, its quickly getting colder and colder.

We have some great ideas on how to keep the children warm both inside and out. And with the holidays soon here we have some suggestions for a great meal for small hands and a fun project.

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**Coffee Filter Snowflakes**

**Needed:**
- Round coffee filters, 2 sizes
- Child safety scissors
- Double-sided tape

**Optional - hole punch, water colors**

Just fold a coffee filter in half a few times then start cutting! Beautiful patterns will emerge as you unfold the snowflake; then using the double-sided tape hang them in the windows.

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**Tacos for Small Hands**

Using Tostitos™ scoops as the taco shell, fill each scoop with your favorite taco filling, cheese, greens, tomato.

- 1 lb. lean ground beef (vegetarian- substitute with refried beans, 16 oz. can)
- 1 cup Thick and Chunky salsa like Old El Paso™
- Tostitos, lettuce, tomato, cheese.

1. Cook beef in skillet over medium heat 8 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until brown; drain.
2. Stir salsa into beef. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly; reduce heat to medium-low. Cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Heat Tostitos; fill with beef mixture, lettuce, tomato and cheese. Eat.
Safety Tips for Outdoor Play During Winter

1. Set time limits and have children come inside periodically to warm up.
2. Watch out for common warning signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
3. Dress children in multiple loose layers so they stay dry and warm, and never let them play in extreme cold.
4. Rule of Thumb: Dress children in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.
5. Check surroundings beforehand to see if there are any icy or slippery patches.

Information provided by The American Academy of Pediatrics

School Vacation: We have entered December 22\textsuperscript{nd} – Jan 2\textsuperscript{nd} as school being out in Minute Menu. If you serve meals to school aged children outside this timeframe for the holiday, please make sure to check the sch out button in Minute Menu HX.
KidKare – click on the box with the lines then no school when selecting the child that you are serving the meal.

Federal Holiday: We schedule all federal holidays as a day off for providers in Minute Menu. If you are working Monday, December 26th or Tuesday, January 2nd, you will need to go into your provider schedule and note those days as open on the holiday.

Holiday Office Schedule: Our office will observe the following holiday schedule to allow our staff to enjoy the holidays with their families. If you find the need to call during this time, please feel free to leave a message and we’ll return your call on the following work day.

- Friday, December 23rd – Monday, December 26th
- Tuesday, January 2nd

*May you and yours have a blessed and safe holiday season!!!*

Mailing Address – PO Box 1660, Auburn, ME 04211-1660
Physical Address - 270 Minot Ave # B, Auburn, ME 04210
Office Hours – 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon & 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Phone Numbers – 1-800-784-0157, 786-0925, fax – 784-2453
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