

Client Engagement Ideas:

Dear Parent,

These are some ideas of activities your child and their worker may find fun or interesting. This also gives you an idea of who is responsible for the cost of these activities. As a general rule, parents are responsible for the cost of feeding their child during respite time. This includes, meals, snacks, ingredients for baking/cooking, etc... Snowflake House will cover the cost of activity passes, to a maximum of \$15/week, depending on the number of hours worked. Costs of activities beyond that amount are the responsibility of the parents. This activity amount can be used to gain entrance to venues or for small purchases of the client's choice, provided you have parental permission.

Snowflake House also has a Toy Lending Library. You, or your child's worker, can borrow items from it at no cost. A list of items available is on our website: <http://snowflake-house.weebly.com/toyactivity-library.html> This list is kept up to date on what items are currently on loan, as well as new items as they are added. Just let Lily know if/when you would like to borrow items, or simply to see what is available. Between the Lending Library and the child's own belongings, your child's worker should be able to provide some fun times for your child.

If there is somewhere your child would like to go, or something your child would like to do, please talk to your worker about it ahead of time. Workers may be able to get passes for places if they know at least a week ahead of time.

These are just ideas to get you started. Planning ahead will greatly help your child's respite time to run smoother, and make sure that your child is having fun. Talking to workers and your child will also help give everyone better ideas of what they enjoy, and what they are expecting out of their time with each other.

Field Trips:

- Swimming (passes may be available)
- Lunch or Supper (parents set a budget and leave money for this. Workers provide change and receipts to parents at end of shift).
- SPCA- call ahead to see if you can walk dogs or pet cats
- Petting Zoo (talk to us ahead of time)
- Bud Miller
- Grocery Shopping-parents make a list of items they need and worker and client go pick it up. Parents should set the budget and leave money for this, Worker should keep receipts and turn them over to parents with any change when shift is done
- Warm weather- water park at Bud Miller
- Dollar Store/Discount stores (gift cards may be available from Snowflake House, but workers should check with parents ahead of time about what is and is not allowed to be purchased. Workers should keep receipts and submit to Snowflake House (if using our gift card), or to parents)
- Walking track at Multiplex (passes may be available)
- Evening Shifts- movie theatre (talk to us ahead of time. Parents should provide money for snacks)
- Coffee or ice cream or Slurpees (gift cards for this may be available from Snowflake

House, but it is preferable that this be provided for by the parent).

- Museum (talk to us ahead of time)
- Go to the Library to look at/read books
- Walk around the mall or Walmart. Sometimes it's fun to push the buttons on the noisy toys, or try the sample lotions, or just look around at things.
- McDonald's to play in the play place (gift cards may be available)
- Be an extra support for family outings as well.

Indoor Ideas:

- arts/crafts (can be borrowed from Toy Library)
- baking/cooking (parents should provide ingredients, particularly if it is in their home)
- board games/card games (Toy Library)
- movies
- making videos with pictures
- coloring
- painting
- playdough
- video games
- puzzles (Toy Library)

Outdoors:

- skipping (Toy Library)
- soccer, football, basketball etc (Toy Library)
- hoola hoops
- nature walk-take pictures then make a slideshow
- bubbles (Toy Library)
- kite flying
- picnics (when possible, parents should provide food)
- washing a car
- sidewalk chalk (Toy Library)
- build sand castles (Toy Library)
- play at the park
- sprinkler
- play tag
- bike riding
- mow the lawn

In addition to having fun, there may be areas with school work that your client may need extra practice in, and if so perhaps you or the teachers could provide the worker with small daily exercises to work on, before getting to the fun stuff.

When it comes to scheduling, talking with workers about what you are expecting, and what they can

provide, beforehand is the best option. If you are looking for longer shifts, do your best to find a compromise that works for everyone. If your child's worker is transporting your child from out of town, gas should be compensated by parents, as it is not expected that workers will cover costs out of their own pocket to work. This is to be discussed between the parents and worker.

Communication is a key component of respite care. Each day you should take a few minutes to talk to the worker about the activities that were done that day and how things went as well as any issues or concerns. If parents are not home at the end of shifts perhaps a communication notebook could be started and placed in the same place each day. Planning ahead and giving parents a general weekly plan should become a part of your child's worker's job. This way you will know ahead when you will need to have money for your child's special trips and outings. And reminders the day before, or at the end of your child's respite time, of upcoming outings will be helpful for everyone as well.