

## TIP SHEET FOR RELATIVES AS PARENTS

### SNOW DAY ACTIVITIES

Snow days can be a lot of fun for the whole family. As the kids jump around with excitement, you wonder what you're going to do to keep the kids busy (and maintain your sanity!) all day. Here are some ideas to keep the kids busy and incorporate quality family time:

- Make a bird feeder: Scoop out the inside of half an orange; spread peanut butter on the inside and add some birdseed. Or, spread peanut butter on a pinecone and roll in birdseed.
- Paint snow: Mix food coloring and water together in empty spray bottles. Go outside and spray designs in the snow. Then, come in and have a cup of hot chocolate!
- Have an indoor snowball fight! Use rolled up socks so no one gets hurt!
- Take apart an old or broken appliance that you don't use anymore. Explore what's inside.
- Build a fort or tent out of blankets and chairs, snuggle up inside and read a book or make up your own stories.
- Get out the board games, playing cards, and puzzles.
- Have a bowling tournament: set up empty milk cartons, cereal boxes, or paper towel tubes, etc. Use rolled-up socks for bowling balls.
- Bake some cookies. Mmmm!
- Have a parade! Dress up fancy, silly, or scary. Complete your parade with musical instruments from the pots & pans cabinet!
- Make edible finger paint: Take one box of vanilla pudding, mix with up to ½ cup of water, and tint with food coloring as desired.
- Play the memory game: Put a bunch of objects around the house on the table. Let the kids look at it for a few minutes, then cover with a towel. How many objects can they remember?
- Make a collage out of old magazines, bits of fabric, buttons, tinfoil, etc.
- Play hopscotch! Make the outline using masking tape. You can also make a pretend balance beam.

Before you know it, it's bedtime! Give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back for having made it through the day! Draw a bath with lots of bubbles, make yourself a soothing cup of hot tea, and relax! You've earned it!

*Copies of our tip sheets may be found on our web site at [www.mainekids-kin.org](http://www.mainekids-kin.org)  
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## Money Talks! Have You Heard?

**As Much As \$4,824 — or more — Could Be Waiting For You!**

**You could qualify!** Did you work in 2008? You may be eligible for the Earned Income Credit, even if you don't owe income tax.

### If you worked in 2008:

- Did you have one child living with you? Did you earn less than \$33,995\*? You can get an EIC up to **\$2,917**.
- Did you have more than one child living with you? Did you earn less than \$38,646\*? You can get an EIC up to **\$4,824**.
- If you had no children living with you, did you earn less than \$12,880\* in 2008? Were you between the ages 25 and 64? You can get an EIC up to **\$438**.

*\*income limits for married workers are \$3,000 higher*

### You could get a CTC refund too!

Many families that earned more than \$8,500 may qualify for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) refund — up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under age 17.

### File a Federal Tax Return to get the EIC and CTC: Get Free Help!!!

- VITA — Volunteer Income Tax Assistance — helps people fill out returns for free. For a site near you, call 1-800-829-1040.

**Boost your take-home pay!** Eligible workers with children can get some of the EIC in their paychecks. To get the Advance EIC, get Form W-5 from your employer, or call 1-800-TAX-FORM.