

## Activity Ideas for Adults with Children in the Amherst Area

### Anywhere

- Building a snowman
- Short hike
- Kids love shoveling snow, but make sure they have tight fitting gloves!

### Amherst

- Eric Carle museum on picture book art (story hour, art room, café), Amherst. <http://www.picturebookart.org/>
- Natural History Museum at Amherst College: free & has dinosaur skeletons
- Check out the UMass calendar for interesting events
- Ice skating at Mullins Center
- Amherst Public Library
- Sledding: go to the hardware store next to Stop&Shop and get a few sleds - the simpler the better (the round disc ones are good). There's a hill next to the middle school at the corner of High St. and Chestnut? which is OK, and some that might be too steep up by the dorms on Orchard Hill near the CASA radar. Cherry Hill golf course is another option.
- "The Emily Dickinson house is well worth it, if the kid can last."
- Durfee conservatory near the health center at UMass has a nice greenhouse.
- Cool construction vehicles around campus & Durfee conservatory

### North of Amherst

- Butterfly Conservatory, South Deerfield. <http://www.magicwings.com/>
- Yankee Candles, South Deerfield
- Historic Deerfield
- Cross-country skiing in Northfield mountain: <http://www.firstlightpower.com/northfield/ccski.asp>
  - May also be able to rent a "pulk" for the kid: <http://www.skiboston.com/skitrack/pulk.php>
- Montshire Museum of Science (more nature-oriented than the one in Boston), Vermont. <http://www.montshire.net/>

### South of Amherst

- The basketball hall of fame, Springfield. <http://www.hoophall.com/>
- Springfield Museum animated dinosaur exhibit.
- Dr. Seuss museum, Springfield. [http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/museums/history/exhibits/index.php?page\\_function=view&exhibit\\_id=36](http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/museums/history/exhibits/index.php?page_function=view&exhibit_id=36)
- Although it will be cold they may still enjoy the ocean. I would recommend the mystic seaport in Connecticut: <http://www.mysticseaport.org/>
- Mount Holyoke greenhouse
- Pushing a small child halfway up Mt. Holyoke in a stroller is quite a workout, but they seem to like it.
- Hampshire has a farm with some animals, you are probably allowed to touch them
- NASH Dino land with dinosaur tracks and other things, South Hadley. <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/MASOUdash.html>

## West of Amherst

- Daughters of the American Revolution nature area, Goshen (~30 min from Northampton). It's apparently really good for cross country skiing, but or a lovely walk if less snowy. Also, there's a big lake there that was well frozen (a man who had been ice fishing said there is currently 10 inches of ice) and might be fun for skating.
- North Adams: Mass MOCA and the Clark Art museum are the primary attractions but it is worth checking out. It is a bit more of a drive from Amherst but the scenery is amazing.
- Berkshire East has a new tubing run, for the non-skiers who want to play in the snow. Also has daycare for 2.5 – 6 year olds.
- Northampton
  - Smith College Conservatory, Northampton.  
<http://www.smith.edu/garden/Conservatory/conservatory.html>
  - The Northampton Parents Center in the basement of Edwards Church (the really ugly one near Smith) isn't exactly interesting, but it would be fun for the little one, and at least one parent could go out and have a coffee or something -- there's a couple great cafe's right nearby.
  - Look Park in Northampton has three toddler-friendly playgrounds and a small zoo, but I'm not sure how open or snowed in it is right now. It would be nice to walk around, at least, and should be stroller friendly.
  - On the way to Look Park, the Cup and Top cafe in Florence has a play area in the back, and is very kid friendly.

## East of Amherst

- Stockbridge: Classic New England town. Home of the Norman Rockwell museum.
- BOSTON:
  - Public Garden with its duck sculptures, a tribute to the book Make Way for Ducklings
  - DeCordova sculpture park in Lincoln
  - Museum of Science and Mugar Omni Theatre
  - Boston Duck Tours (probably too cold)
  - Children's Museum (fun for adults as well)
  - Boston Museum of Fine Arts
  - See a Matinee at the Wang Center for the Performing Arts
  - See a Celtics game
  - Eat at Restaurant in Boston's China Town (I recommend a place called ocean wealth- best seafood. Can't remember the address but if you go through the main gate, its down the first street on your left across from China Pearl)
  - Museum of Afro American History
  - Boston's Holocaust Memorial
  - Walk the freedom trail in Downtown and stop at the many historical buildings (if they don't mind cold weather)
  - Faneuil Hall Market
  - Haymarket on a Saturday morning (7am-10am is best)
  - The MIT Museum
  - The Brattle Theatre in Cambridge
  - If you can get a copy or take a look at the Boston Phoenix news paper, they list tons of events in bostonAlso, the Thursday edition of the Boston Globe newspaper has something called the Boston Globe calendar which lists all of the weekend (Friday, Sat, Sun) events in Boston.
  - The Charles Playhouse in Boston always has great shows
  - Get tickets to see Boston University, Boston College, or Northeastern Hockey or Basketball
  - And here's a source for boston Family activities: <http://www.bostoncentral.com/events.php>