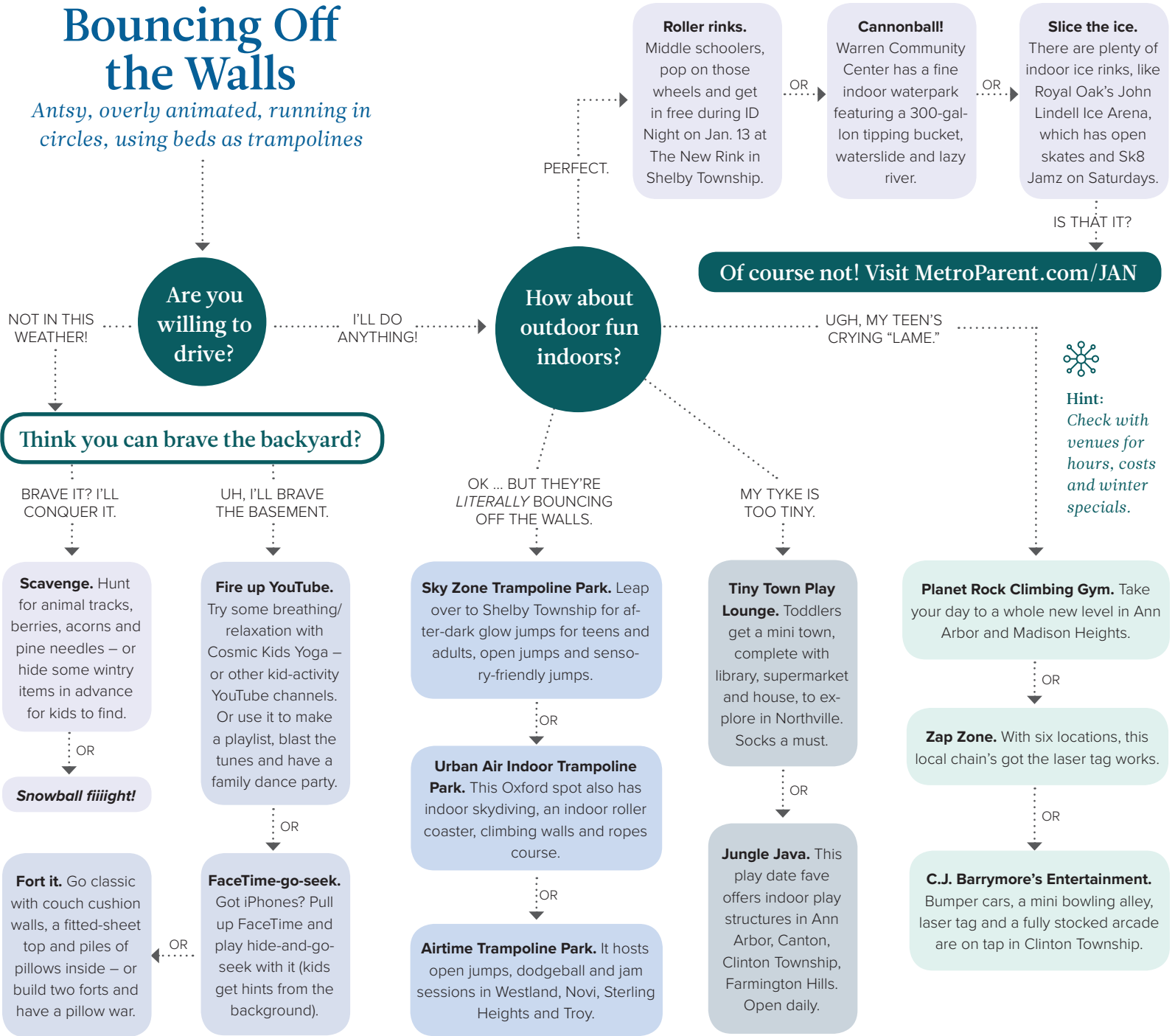


Bouncing Off the Walls

Antsy, overly animated, running in circles, using beds as trampolines



Game of Thaw

HELP! IT'S COLD AND MY KIDS ARE ...

Whining, 'I'm Bored!'

Restless, whiny, picking on siblings, transforming into screen zombies

Are they hungry?

WHEN AREN'T THEY HUNGRY?

Polar bear snack. Use a rice cake, two banana slices, cottage cheese, a pair of raisins and an Oreo to make this cute recipe, by twigglemagazine.com.

Play with your food. Whip up some edible playdough ice cream with help from smartschoolhouse.com.

I ALREADY TRIED THAT ONE.

Artsy?

THEY'RE PRACTICALLY PICASSOS!

NOPE, SCIENCE-Y.

Does your kitchen double as a lab?

Shall we take the art show to go?

NO CLEANUP? SIGN ME UP.

Do the DIA. Check out *BitterSweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate*, the first "five senses" exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts till March 5. Watch for kids workshops and shows on weekends, too.

OR

Make something. Register for a themed painting class at The Friendship Factory, including ballerinas Jan. 6 (in Rochester) and a Super Bowl piece Jan. 20 (Clinton Township).

OR

Little Picassos. For kids ages 20 months to elementary school, sign up for an art class at Abra-kadoodle in Canton.

IT'S TOO DARN COLD.

Dress it up. Search the attic for old dresses, shoes, hats and jewelry to gussy up like icy royalty or even the abominable snowman.

OR

Room-temp snowmen. Stick magnets to the backs of white foam circles to make fridge-door snowmen (thanks to livingwellmom.com).

OR

Non-melting snowballs. A cup of liquid starch, a cup of Elmer's glue and a bit of warm running water is all you need to make the bouncy snowballs. Find the how-to at coffeecupsandcrayons.com.

TRY "COMPETITIVE."

Lounge around. For \$5, enjoy a 90-minute, unplugged board game sesh at Plymouth's 3&UP Board Game Lounge.

OR

Beat The Parents. This game by Imagination pits kids ages 6-plus against parents to find out who's *really* the boss. Buy it for under \$20.

OR

Hedbanz. Strap a card to your head and see if you can guess what it is in this wacky \$20 find by Spin Master Games, prime for tweens.

I'LL GRAB MY WHITE COAT.

Cold as ice. Pick up an ice cube with a piece of string – without tying a knot. Google it to learn how.

OR

Spark some fun. Shut off all the lights, munch a Wint-O-Green LifeSavers in the dark and see what happens.

OR

More experiments. Did you miss Metro Parent's online science camp? Log on to make smartphone speakers, elephant toothpaste and more.

NOT A CHANCE.

Creatures of Light. Hurry to Michigan Science Center in Detroit to catch this glow-in-the-dark critter exhibit by Jan 15.

OR

Math Mayhem. Walk through a single sheet of paper and master life-sized 3D puzzles at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Jan. 28-29.

OR

King Tut! Save the date: Cranbrook Institute of Science's next exhibit opens Feb. 3. Meanwhile swing by to dig into the ice age and more.

Yep! Head to MetroParent.com/ScienceCamp

DID YOU SAY ONLINE CAMP?

HELP! IT'S COLD AND MY KIDS ARE ...

Suffering Serious Cabin Fever

Irritable, agitated, down in the dumps, feeling the winter-blah feels

Book a local hotel for a family staycation. (Tip: Wyndham Gardens Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights has an indoor water park.)

How about a romp with Mother Nature?

NO THANKS, STILL TOO COLD.

OK – sit down or walk around?

GOTTA GET MY STEPS IN.

LEGOLAND Discovery Center. Prime for ages 3-10, this Auburn Hills spot's got two rides, a 4D cinema and big kids play area. Book early!

North American International Auto Show. Nothing tops a trek to the big Detroit show, open to the public Jan. 14-22.

Dinosaur tours. They're at the U-M Museum of Natural History in Ann Arbor and free to the first 15 at 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays (minus Jan. 1).

These work, too.

First-run flicks. Live-action *Monster Trucks* opens Jan. 13 – and dramedy *A Dog's Purpose* launches Jan. 27. Both are rated PG.

See it live. This month offers *The Snow Queen* at Northville Marquis Theatre, *Owl's Winter* by Wild Swan Theater in Ann Arbor and *Sesame Street Live* in Detroit. Flip to Fun Guide on page 43 for deets.

The Creature Conservancy. This Ann Arbor spot hosts Creature Encounters every Saturday and Sunday. They're highlighting Poco the sloth in January.

Detroit Zoo. Visit for Wild Winter Weekends on Jan. 21 and Feb. 4. Give the new ice rink in front of the Polk Penguin Conservation Center a spin, too.

Belle Isle. This Detroit island lets you get up close and personal with gentle deer. Be sure to swing by the nearby aquarium to chill with some underwater creatures too.

SQUEEE!

How do you feel about animals?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED.

Commune with nature. The Burgess-Shadbrush Nature Center in Shelby Township hosts a Jan. 28 Winter Fest and Family Cookout complete with a wildlife walk, live show with Professor Frost Bite and food.

Scour the night sky. Try out the Astronomy of the Winter Sky event at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake on Jan. 21.

Warren's Cold Rush. Head out Jan. 14 for putt-putt golf, a petting zoo, ice skating and icy masterpieces on display.

Meh.

Ice or snow?

ICE, ICE BABY.

Plymouth Ice Festival. This year's blowout has an ice playground, dueling chainsaws and sculptures galore. Visit Jan. 6-8.

Oakland County Fire & Ice Festival. Tube sledding, snow shoeing and dog sled rides pair with ice sculptures and fireworks Jan. 20-22 in Rochester.

LET IT SNOW!

Get colorful. Give an igloo or snowman pizzazz by spritzing with food coloring and water, mixed up and misted from a spray bottle.

Go sledding. Hike uphill at Hines Park in Westland or Rochester's Bloomer Park and sled or tube your way back down.

GAME OVER, WINTER! **End**

– Christina Clark is a frequent Metro Parent contributor based in Warren.