

The Children's House - "Chill Out" Fridays At Hickory Hills

Description: Tired of looking for activities during the winter for your kiddos? Want to get outside with other TCH families and enjoy the snow? **Join us every Friday beginning January 17 for "Chill Out" Fridays at Hickory Hills, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** This is a chance to have your TCH kiddos ski or snowboard, connect with other TCH families, eat some food, and celebrate the end of the week around a bonfire.

Details:

1. Where: [Hickory Hills Recreation Area](#) (2000 Randolph Street, Traverse City, MI 49684)
2. When: Fridays, January 17 from 4pm to 6pm inside the lodge until March 21
3. What: Enjoy the lodge, use the bunny hill (with a magic carpet), ski using the rope tow. You are allowed to bring in your own food + snacks for kiddos.
4. Who: TCH Families + Kiddos
5. Why: Let your kiddos get the wiggles out on the ski hill with their buddies! Let yourself relax and take a deep breath in fresh snowy air. Meet other TCH families while enjoying some food, and learn more about the programming Grand Traverse Ski Club ([GTSC](#)) [offers kids ages 4+](#)

FAQ's:

1. Who can I contact with more questions?
 - o Sarah Kebler - wilso757@gmail.com or (has a TCH four year old who loves Hickory and started skiing/trying around 2).
2. How long does this go for?
 - o January 17 - March 21 (right before spring break).
3. How much does it cost?
 - o [You can find season rates here](#). At this time there is no "Friday" discount, but we are working on it with the City.
4. What if my kiddo doesn't have ski or snowboard gear?
 - o There are two programs in town that offer awesome season-long programs for kids and ensure their gear is safe and fits.
 - i. [Boyne County Junior Has a Fit](#)
 - ii. [Don Orr Kids Ski Lease Program](#)
 - o [You can rent at Hickory too](#). This is great if you just want to try it out, but don't want to make the commitment to a full-time snow season.
 - o Be sure to dress kids in warm layers including a neck gator or something similar to protect their faces if it's windy and cold. Kids using the rope tow

will need mitten protectors. Hickory sells them; inexpensive garden gloves with the finger holes trimmed open and stretched over mittens also work.

5. Can we bring food? It's close to dinner time.
 - Yes, it's a City-run building, so outside food is allowed. Of course, as a good community member, it's important that all food/trash is cleaned up after use. We want to leave the lodge as clean as we found it.
 - Families are responsible for their own food.
 - Hickory Hills/the lodge may offer a snack bar/food inside this winter season, but we do not have information on when/what at this time. You can also order pizza delivery, etc.
6. What if I don't want to ski?
 - Come join us anyway and hang out with some hot cocoa inside or warm up by the outdoor fire pit - this is meant to be social, low-key and a way to build community. There is also nordic skiing available.
7. What is the best age to have my kids ski?
 - That is completely up to you - you know your kiddo best. Some children start learning as early as 2, though *most kiddos don't develop significant inner leg strength to control speed and stop until around 4. Check out [Edgie Wedgies](#) for the little ones if interested.*
8. What if I want a private lesson or group lesson, or want to learn more about GTSC's programming at Hickory Hills?
 - Visit <https://www.gtskiclub.org/> or reach out to TCH mom and GTSC coach, Renee Mittelstaedt, at rhmittelstaedt@gmail.com or 231-313-6624 (her daughter is a part of GTSC and loves skiing with her TCH buddies at Hickory Hills!)
9. What if I have small children (babies), where can they hang out?
 - The lodge is heated and has beautiful windows -it's a great place to get cozy. Bathrooms have a changing table.
10. Why Hickory Hills and not Mt.Holiday?
 - The only reason... because it's close to TCH (we were just thinking about proximity to TCH). We love Holiday Hills, too, and of course encourage everyone to check it out for a great ski experience on the east side of town.
11. Is this sponsored by Hickory Hills or GTSC?
 - Nope! This is just a group of caregivers at TCH who want to do something fun outside with other TCH families. Gathering at Hickory is a great way to take advantage of the snow and hills that are uniquely located in downtown Traverse City!