

Theme: Weather

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Play “hot potato” with a water-soaked ball or a water balloon!
- Act out some of the action songs identified on <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems17.html>
- Pretend to be the wind blowing through the town; run around the yard or playroom, arms outstretched, “whirring” like the wind
- For another take on duck-duck-goose, try splish-splish-splat! Or sunshine-sunshine-rain!
- Bean bag toss—make bags to look like clouds, rain drops, snowflakes, the sun

Math Activities:

- ❖ How many clouds are over the umbrella? Use a flannel board to see how many clouds you can squeeze over a multi-colored flannel umbrella... then count the sections of the umbrella and identify the colors of each.
- ❖ How many rays in the sun? (also on flannel board)

Note: Most flannel board and counting activities can be prepared as folder games. Put the pieces in zip-close bags and store inside the folder. Keep a file box full of them by the activity table.

Science Activities:

- ❖ Describe the colors in a rainbow
- ❖ Let children look at light through a prism.
- ❖ If it's winter time, let the children color snow by leaving your old dry markers in the snow for awhile and see what happens!
- ❖ Put up an outdoor thermometer so children can check it each day to determine the temperature.

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- ❖ Use a couple of wide-mouth jars to let the children practice dropping ping pong balls into the jars from a standing distance. Children can pretend these are raindrops and can drop them into a jar. They can also use droppers to drop colored water into a small jar while seated at the table.

Snacks:

- ❖ Serve peaches in a “cloud” of cottage cheese
- ❖ Make rainbow or sun-shaped cookies
- ❖ Cover a pumpkin pie with a snowflake stencil and shake powdered sugar over it to create a snowflake on your pie!
- ❖ Make snow candy! See <http://wondertime.go.com/life-at-home/article/snow-candy-recipe.html> for the recipe.

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Visit your local TV station and let the children see how the weather forecast is done. They will enjoy watching the weather forecaster at work.

Songs & Fingerplays:

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems17.html>

Books:

Twister! by B. Haduch

Oh, Say Can You See What's the Weather Today? by T. Rabe

Weather, by DK Publishing

What Will the Weather Be? by L. Dewitt

Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll by F. M. Branley

Wild Weather Soup, by C. Formby

The Kids' Book of Weather Forecasting, by Breen et al.

Weather Words and What They Mean, by G. Gibbons

Weather Forecasting, by G. Gibbons

The Best Book of Weather, by S. Adams

Weather Detectives, by M. Eubank

How's the Weather? by R. Lanczak

Tell Me Why Rain is Wet, by S. Willis

Down Comes the Rain, by F. M. Branley

Weather, by S. Simon

How Weather Works, by M. Allaby

The Weather, by G. Rosa-Mendoza et al.

Learning About Weather, by J. E. Moore et al.

Pink Snow and Other Weird Weather, by J. Dussling

Watching the Weather, by E. Eckart

The Magic School Bus Kicks Up a Storm, by N. White

What's the Weather Inside? by K. Wilson

Elmer's Weather, by D. McKee

Kipper's Book of Weather, by M. Inkpen

Dramatic Play:

- ✓ Snow boots
- ✓ Rain boots
- ✓ Rain hat
- ✓ Ski cap
- ✓ Beach towel
- ✓ Beach ball

Art:

- ❖ Paint clouds out of blue or gray fingerprint.
- ❖ Easel paint – paint a picture of your favorite kind of weather. It can be sunny, rainy, windy, snowy, or you could draw a hurricane or tornado.
- ❖ Make a mobile using a hanger, some string, construction paper and paint. Let children paint a “Weather Station” sign to tape across the front of the hanger. Strings can be tied to the bottom of the hanger to which children can attach a sun, rainbow, cloud, wind, snowflake, tornado—either paint pictures of each or print out pictures of each to be attached to the mobile.
- ❖ Stencils – trace around stencils onto paper to create a weather picture. Children can use whichever stencils they prefer.
- ❖ Stamping – children create pictures using sun, snowflake, umbrella, etc.
- ❖ Make a collage of magazine/catalog pictures depicting the types of clothing you would wear for rain, for snow, for a day at the beach, etc.

Circle Time Activities:

- ❖ Note: You could talk about a different kind of weather each day: For example, rain on Monday, snow on Tuesday, sun on Wednesday, wind on Thursday, etc.
- ❖ What kinds of weather do we see where we live? Rain, sun, wind, snow, tornado, hurricane?
- ❖ How do we know what kind of weather we're going to have today? Look outside the window, check the temperature gauge, check the weather report, check the news for school closings...
- ❖ What is a meteorologist? What does a meteorologist do? Visit a TV station or have a meteorologist visit you.
- ❖ Keep a weather chart for the week and note the weather each day.
- ❖ Make a matching game about the weather; match a symbol (cloud, sun) with the word.
- ❖ Discuss the different kinds of clouds and what they mean.
- ❖ For a huge variety of activities about the weather, see <http://www.easyfunschool.com/article1087.html>
- ❖ Tornado drills – practice! What's your plan?
- ❖ Hurricane maps
- ❖ Create a chart together using paint chip colors of blues and grays. Go from dark to light and be sure to include white. Each day, let the children check the sky and identify on the chart what color the sky is, or what color the clouds are for that day. http://www.weatherworks.com/monthly/activities/sky_window.html
- ❖ What kind of weather do we have in each of the four seasons? When does it snow? What do we like to do in the snow? What do we like to do in warm, sunny summer weather? What about spring rain? What do we like to do then? What happens in fall? You could also make a game for this depicting the types of activities and clothing appropriate for each type of weather.
- ❖ Have the room set up like a beach party one day and talk about warm summer weather, why it is warm part of the year, what do we wear in warm weather? What can we do when the weather is warm? Serve sandwiches for lunch and fruity drinks.