



Wondering About Weather

Everyday when your child goes outside, she experiences the weather. Is it sunny or rainy? Are flowers blooming, or are leaves falling from the trees? Weather is a great learning tool for children because it leads to exploration and discovery.

INFANT:

- When you're in the car with your child and it's raining, say "the rain is falling hard" or "the rain is falling slowly." Point to your windshield wipers and talk about how the rain needs to be pushed away so you can see.
- When dressing your child to go outside, talk to her about the different seasons and the different kinds of clothes you wear in different seasons. When it's cold outside, we need a warm jacket, a hat and gloves. In the spring, we only need a light sweater or jacket. And, in the summer, when it's really warm, all we need to wear is a tee shirt and shorts.

TODDLER:

- Encourage your child to observe and describe the weather each day. Ask questions such as, "Is it sunny or cloudy? Warm or cold? Windy or calm?" If it's raining, ask, "Is the rain heavy or light?" If it's snowing, ask "Can you hear the snow touch the ground?" "What sound does the rain make?"
- On a windy day, fly a kite or create a wind wand by attaching streamers to a ruler or dowel (the cardboard in the center of paper towels) with your child. Ask your child, "Why is the kite or wand moving around in the air?" "What does the wind feel like?"
- Go outside with your child when there is a rainbow in the sky. Tell your child that rainbows appear when the sun shines when it's raining. Then, have your child draw a picture of the rainbow.

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Put out different types of clothing and ask your child to group the clothing by warm weather and cooler weather.
- Look up at the sky on a cloudy day. Are the clouds moving or still? Talk about the color and shapes of the clouds. Give your child chalk or crayons and blue or black paper so that she can draw her own pictures of clouds.
- Go outside on a windy day. Ask your child, "What is being moved by the wind?" "Does the wind make you feel colder or warmer?" Let your child blow bubbles to see which way the wind is blowing.

Book Suggestions:

The Snowy Day. Ezra Jack Keats. Penguin Group, 1996.
Little Cloud. Eric Carle. Putnam Juvenile, 2001.
Like A Windy Day. Frank Asch. Voyager Books, 2002.