



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #17 EXPLORING WEATHER

HELLO PARENTS,

Weather and climate affect children's lives every day whether it is clear and sunny, or rainy and windy outside. Making observations about the weather and discussing climate are great ways to teach children about nature and science, especially since weather is something children can easily relate to and understand. This will result in a life-long interest in the beauty of nature. In this newsletter, we provide you with some interesting activities to help your child learn about weather and climate in an educational way.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

RAIN AND CLOUDS SHAKER

MATERIALS:

- Empty water bottle
- Cotton balls
- Beads or something that can make sounds

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the bottle with cotton balls ("clouds").
- Add beads ("rain") into the bottle and put the lid on.
- Look at and listen to the "rain" flowing through the "clouds" as you turn the bottle slowly up and down. Talk to your baby about the sounds it is making.
- During diaper changes or other occasions, let your child manipulate it and encourage them to listen to the rain-like sounds.

[Click here](#) for more about exploring weather with babies.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

IMPROVISED RAIN

MATERIALS:

- Spray bottles or water bottles with holes on the bottom
- Umbrellas
- Water

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the spray or water bottle with water.
- Squirt water from the spray bottle or squeeze the water bottle hard until you see the "rain" drops.
- Spray each other outside while holding an umbrella protecting yourself from the "rain".

[Click here](#) to listen to the song "Rain Rain Go Away".

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

RAINBOW REFLECTION

MATERIALS:

- Clear bottle of water
- Sheet of white paper
- Sunlight

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the bottle all the way to the top with water.
- Put the white sheet of paper in direct sunlight and hold the bottle of water above it making sure the sun shines through the water.
- Observe the reflection of a rainbow on the paper.
- Ask your child questions (What do you notice? How do you think this happens?). Talk about and compare the colours of sunlight and the rainbow. When light passes through the water, it is broken up into all of the colours seen in a rainbow.

[Click here](#) for more hands-on weather activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

NATURAL WIND CATCHER

MATERIALS:

- Nature collection (sticks, leaves, acorns, rocks, etc.)
- Twine or string
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Collect nature items when you take a walk outside.
- Cut various lengths of twine or string.
- Tie two sticks together to form an X shape.
- Tie the nature objects to string and then attach the strings to the sticks.
- Hang on a tree or under the roof and observe the objects as the wind moves them.

[Click here](#) to learn more about wind.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

WEATHER JOURNAL

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Regular paper
- Scissors, staple or glue
- Markers, pencils or crayons

DIRECTIONS:

- Fold a large piece of construction paper in half to make a book cover.
- Staple a stack of blank pages into the middle to form a book.
- Draw clouds, sun, snow, raindrops and so on, cut them out and glue onto the cover.
- Write a title "Weather Book" onto the cover.
- Take a few minutes each day checking the weather outside and recording it with writing or drawing.
- Older children can create their own weather graphs (or print weather graph worksheets from internet), and graph the daily weather or temperature. This is a great way to get your child engaged in math learning.

[Click here](#) to learn more about weather and climate.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Listen to or read the local weather forecast.
- Look for fun weather-related snippets in the local newspaper or a magazine.
- Take a walk daily, observe the weather and name it (sunny, windy, rainy, etc.)
- Discuss with your child the observations they have made about the weather.
- Keep a weather journal throughout the month or year.