

Science at Home

Weather Wheel

What You Need

Printed weather wheel (or blank paper, ruler and a bowl)
Crayons or markers
Scissors
Brass fastener



What You Do

1. Color the weather wheel template from imaginationstationtoledo.org (or create your own) and discuss what types of weather you most commonly experience in your area.
2. Cut out your weather wheel and arrow. Use a brass fastener to attach the arrow. (Young children may need help from an older child or adult when using scissors).
3. Choose a place to display your weather wheel. Pick a time each day that you will observe the weather together and record it on your weather wheel.

Questions to ask

- What did it feel like outside today?
- What do you see in the sky? Are there clouds? Sunshine?
- Did you have to wear anything special today (like a coat or sunglasses) to go outside?

What's the Science?

Weather is the conditions of the sky and air outside on a given day, including the temperature, wind, clouds, and rain. Young children can learn that the weather can affect our lives. It can affect whether we choose to wear a hat and sunscreen, rainboots, or a snowsuit. Weather can also affect what we do that day – whether we go swimming at the beach, build a snowman, or stay inside. Severe weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes can have more significant affects on our lives as well.

Try This

Use science vocabulary: Use related science words such as weather, temperature, warm, cold, rain, snow, or wind as you talk and play together. Children learn new vocabulary words when they hear grown-ups use them in context.

For older children: Add an extra challenge for older children. Skip the weather wheel template and encourage them to create their own from scratch!

Keep in Mind

- Children are natural scientists; let them lead the way in their experimentation!
Encourage them to ask questions and make suggestions only when they are stuck/discouraged.
- The order suggested is not the only right or perfect way. Adjust the activities based on the age, ability, and interests of the children.

Additional Resources

Worm Weather by Jean Taft
How's the Weather by Rozanne Lanczak Williams
It's Raining, It's Pouring by Kin Eagle
Scholastic StudyJams: Weather Instruments
<http://studyjams.scholastic.com>

