

March 2019 – Weather is a fun and exciting topic to incorporate into the children’s learning this month. There are so many changes in the weather that will be happening as the snow starts to melt and Spring begins. Try some of these exciting Weather activities with the children, adapt them to fit the children’s interest area and level of understanding. *Standard 1.2 Child care professionals demonstrate respectful, positive interactions with children and guide them within a caring and nurturing environment – A. Talk to children at a developmental level they understand.*



A Rain cloud in a Jar – You will need: 2 glass jars or cups, 1 sponge (1 side is squishy, and the other side is a rough scrubber), food coloring, medicine droppers/pipettes, water and towels. Start by having the children pour water into one of the glass jars and then adding a few drops of food coloring. If you like you can cut the sponge to better fit on top of the second jar. To add some science and math elements to this activity have the children discuss and write down their predictions of how many pipettes of water will the sponge/ “cloud” take before it starts to rain. Next have the children fill their pipettes with the blue water and then carefully release the water onto the sponge. Once the sponge gets too heavy the “rain” will begin to fall. This is a simple version of how rain forms, so explain to the children that clouds are formed by water vapor rising into the air and condensing into tiny particles of dust. When billions of these droplets come together, a visible cloud is created. Over time, the droplets and crystals that make up a cloud can attract more water to themselves. As the water droplets grow heavier and heavier, gravity pulls them down as raindrops!

Weather Dramatic Play- Provide materials for the children to play with and discuss the weather – this could be setting up a map and providing a variety of coats, boots, hats and sunglasses for the children to dress up in. Once dressed up the children can point to parts of the map where those clothes could be worn (rainy, snowy etc.) You could also set up a weather channel dramatic play area and have the children take turns being the Meteorologist or camera operator. This is a great way to incorporate spotlight words like the days of the week and use language to describe all types of weather. Visit this website for free weather card printables www.pre-kpages.com/whats-the-weather-dramatic-play-dress-up-center/



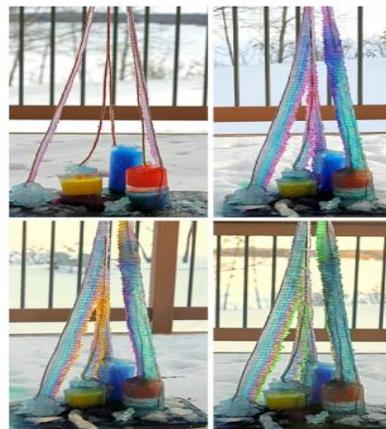
by PlaygroundParkbench for PreKPages.com
What's the Weather?
Dramatic Play & Dress Up Center



The Snowman Experiment – Ahead of time prepare three balloons filled with water (small, medium and large – you might want to make enough so each child can have their own snowman) and freeze overnight. Next cut the balloon off the ice ball and put in the garbage immediately (balloons are a choking hazard so do not let the children help with these steps). You will need pieces of felt for the face, salt (to help the ice balls stick to each other), plastic containers to collect the water melting, paper and pens. **The Experiment** - 1 Snowman will be put outside and 1 left indoors to see which one will melt the fastest. To start have the children discuss and write down their predictions to see what will happen to the snowmen that stay inside and the ones that go outside. Predict what will happen after 1 hour, 3 hours etc. This experiment could be done during any season do will produce different results.

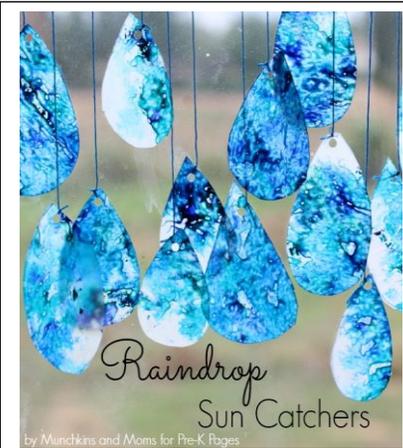
Look for these awesome weather-related books at your next trip to the Library

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| “Worm Weather” | By Jean Taft |
| “The Reasons For Seasons” | By Gail Gibbons |
| “Otis and the Tornado” | By Loren Long |
| “The Cloud Book” | By Tomie dePaola |
| “Feel the Wind” | By Arthur Dorros |
| “Hide and Seek Fog” | By Alvin Tressert |
| “What will the Weather be like Today” | By Paul Rodgers |
| “Weather Words and What They Mean” | By Gail Gibbons |



Raindrop Suncatchers – You will need: Blue crayons, Pencil or crayon sharpener, Waxed paper, Iron (for adult use only), Scissors string and hole punch. Begin by having the children peel off the paper on the crayons and sharpen the blue crayons onto sheets of wax paper, this is great for strengthening their fine motor skills. Spread out the blue crayon shavings evenly on the paper (you can do one large piece or give each child their own), once the wax paper is nicely covered cut a second piece of wax paper to fit overtop. Next, use your iron on the lowest heat setting and iron the wax paper, one quick swipe should be enough to melt the crayon wax. Give the wax a minute to cool off and then have the children help you draw large raindrop shapes on the paper and then cut them out. Once all the raindrops have been cut out, hole punch each one, add string and display in a window. These lovely suncatchers will look great rain or shine!

Make your own Icicles – You will need, string, a cookie sheet pan, a ladder, a broom stick, food coloring, medicine droppers or syringes and different shapes/sizes of containers. Start the night before by freezing several “Bases” for the icicles to attach to. Use various size containers to freeze the water in and add food coloring. The next day, begin by placing the ladder overtop of the frozen bases (on the cookie sheet) and place the broom handle across one of the higher rungs. Next, make a very small hole in the bottom of the pop bottle and tie one end of the string in a knot and thread the string through it (wet the string before you bring it outside as this will help guide the water down the string). Put the bottle on the highest rung of the ladder. Have one string coming down from the pop bottle to the broom handle. Connect 5 more strings hanging down to make a tent shape that you can connect to the frozen bases at the bottom. The children can use a syringe/medicine dropper of water to help freeze the ice to the string. Continue to add the different color of water to the pop bottle about every 10 mins. Just make sure that the water in the bottle does not freeze. Do not use hot water as it will melt the icicles that have already formed. The finished product will be layers of colorful icicles.



Air Pressure Game – You will need: 2 kitchen sponges, a Ziploc plastic bag, straws, tape, pens and paper. This is a simple activity that can really demonstrate to the children the power of air pressure and wind. To start, place the two kitchen sponges, one on top of the other, inside the plastic Ziploc bag. Place the drinking straw between the two sponges so that one end of the straw is inside the bag and the other end is sitting outside the bag. Seal up the bag and tape it closed as well to make the seal stronger. Label each straw with each child’s name. Have the children gather objects to test the air pressure on (pom pom, feather, toy car, wood block). Have the children make a prediction as to which items will move from the air pressure and which will hold their place. Have the children line up the straw behind the object and then squish the sponges to create wind. Have the children try different techniques (blow extra air into the bag, have the bag on the table and use 2 hands to squeeze the air out, holding the bag at different angles...)