Exploring the Weather

Every day when children walk out of the house they immediately experience the weather. Is it sunny or cloudy? Are flowers blooming or are leaves falling from the trees? For children, weather is a great learning tool because it leads to exploration and discovery.

Before you start exploring, you might think about these questions:

- What does my child already know about the weather?
- What do they want to learn and how can we learn together?
- What questions does my child have about the weather?

The answers to these questions will help you guide your child as you explore things he or she is curious about.

You can start by creating a weather log where your child notices the weather every day and draws a picture or writes about it. You can also talk about the kind of clothes people should wear for different types of weather.

Learning about the weather can be fun, and you will both learn a lot about the forces of nature. Get outside and experience the weather firsthand. It’s a great way to spend time with your child.

More books about weather...

- Weather Words and What they Mean, by Gail Gibbons
- What Will the Weather be Like Today? by Paul Rogers
- The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats
- Weather, by Seymour Simon
- Snowballs, by Lois Ehlert
- What's the Weather? by Jo Moon
- The Jacket I Wear in the Snow, by Shirley Neitzel

Featured Book

The Apple Pie Tree, by Zoe Hall

A little girl, her baby sister, and a nest of robins watch through the seasons for apples to grow on their apple pie tree. This is an excellent book to teach young children about seasons, seeds and the life cycle. There is even a recipe for apple pie included on the last page!

If your child enjoyed this story, check out other stories written and illustrated by Zoe Hall and Shari Halpern at your library.
More fun with *The Apple Pie Tree*...

**The Nature of Things**... Talk with your child about seasons. Using the pictures in the story as a guide, help your child cut four tree trunks from a paper bag or craft paper. Label each one: spring, summer, winter and autumn. Using markers, crayons and a variety of materials, let your child decorate each tree according to what it would look like in each season.

**Around the house**... Enjoy eating an apple with your child. Talk about things you can make with apples — cider, applesauce, pie, dried apples, apple butter, etc. If you make something using a recipe, let your child help you with the simple steps. Point out the words that tell you how to make the dish.

---

**Fingerplay**...

**Five Red Apples**

*(Use your fingers to represent the apples)*

Five red apples hanging in a tree,

*(hold up five fingers)*

The juiciest apples you ever did see.

The wind came by and gave an angry frown,

*(flutter fingers downward)*

And one little apple came tumbling down!

*(one finger falls)*

Repeat for 4, 3, 2, 1

---

**Make a Rainbow**

1. Fill a clear glass 3/4 full of water.
2. Place it on a surface so that sun shines through it and part of the glass sits over the edge.
3. Place white paper below the glass on a table or floor.
4. Move the paper and glass until a rainbow appears on the paper.
5. What’s happening? The colorless light we see is really made of several colors passing through water, as sunlight does on a rainy day when the clouds separate.

*From Collaborative Summer Library Program Manual 2010*

---

**What your library can do for you**...

Your librarian can help you find books and activities to help your child learn more about the seasons and weather.

---

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Brought to you by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program and your local library.