

WINTERKIDS WINTER GAMES 2025 - WEATHER



Consider creating an outdoor weather station, as outlined in “Outdoor Weather Station” on page 21 of the Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition.

Fill your dramatic play area with items for children to pretend to be meteorologists! Professional clothing like blazers, dresses, ties, a microphone (make your own with foil and paper towel tube!), a felt or white board with different cloud types, sun, snow and rain icons, maps, a thermometer, etc. can complete your TV “set”.

Review the booklist in the WinterKids Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition beginning on page 158. Consider adding some new books to your classroom library.

WEEK 1

TEMPERATURE



Activity 1: Weather Observations-Dress the children for the outdoors and walk to your thermometer to see the day’s temperature. Be sure to discuss how it feels and looks each day. Record the temperature in the chart for the children. Or create a classroom weather chart.

Activity 2: The “Great” Heat Escape - The science concepts in this lesson are likely too advanced for young children. Replace this lesson with the **Introduction to a Thermometer** activity in the Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition (page 20).

Then go outside and play the game from the “Great” Heat Escape as a game of tag.

Activity 3: Getting in the Know—Global Warming: Talk to the children about their body temperature, and that all animals and even the planet has a temperature. Use vocabulary such as: thermometer, freezing, melting, measure, observe, precipitation, meteorologist.





Activity 4: Weather Word Search - For very young children, replace the word search with **Retelling The Mitten** from the Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition p. 29. Download the animal masks from Jan Brett's website, and have the children act out the story outdoors. Discuss with the children that huddling together when it's very cold can help everyone feel warmer!

Activity 5: Lights Out for Movie Night - No adaptations necessary.

WEEK 2

PRECIPITATION



Activity 1: Weather Observations - Dress the children for the outdoors and walk to your thermometer to see the day's temperature. Be sure to discuss how it feels and looks each day. Record the temperature in the chart for the children. Or create a classroom weather chart.

Activity 2: "Al" the Snowman - This activity is about the Albedo Effect-light colors reflect heat, and dark colors absorb heat. It's possible for young children to follow this concept, however if you feel a simpler concept is in order, use the **Ice Blocks** lesson on page 39 of the Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition.

Activity 3: Snow Board - Measuring Snow Amounts - Adults should help the children measure snow accumulations. A stick or ruler may be helpful to mark the depth of snow, then use the tape measure to see how much snow fell.



Activity 4: Measure Me - Accurate measurements are important in scientific research. **Measure Me** on page 31 of the Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition introduces children to non-standard units of measurement.

Activity 5: Being Friendly to our Planet - Collecting Rain - No adaptations necessary.

WEEK 3



WIND

Activity 1: Weather Observations - Dress the children for the outdoors and walk to your thermometer to see the day's temperature. Be sure to discuss how it feels and looks each day. Record the temperature in the chart for the children. Or create a classroom weather chart.

Activity 2: Experiencing the Outdoors Through Art - No adaptations necessary.

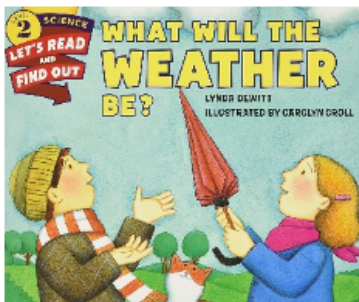
Activity 3: Beaufort Wind Scale - How Strong is the Wind? Teach the children to observe the different ways to determine the strength of the wind. Abbreviate the list of classifications/descriptions as needed for the age group.

Activity 4: Stick to North - In lieu of this compass activity, try **Wind Streamers** on page 109 of the Learn Outside Guide Early Childhood Edition. Take the children outdoors with their streamers on different days and point out the direction the streamers move. Discuss what happened the day before with their streamers. Why is it different today?

Activity 5: Being Friendly to our Planet: Wind Turbines – Children may need help creating their pinwheels. An internet search will provide a variety of ideas and templates for this activity!



WEEK 4



CLOUDS

Activity 1: Weather Observations - Weather Observations-Dress the children for the outdoors and walk to your thermometer to see the day's temperature. Be sure to discuss how it feels and looks each day. Record the temperature in the chart for the children. Or create a classroom weather chart.

Activity 2: Head to the dramatic play area for the children to become TV meteorologists! Be sure to include weather vocabulary: forecast, predict, observe, cloud names (p 27 in the WinterKids Winter Games PLAYBook).

Activity 3: Cloud Identification - Keep the list simple, focusing on the 4 types of clouds.

Activity 4: Read *What Will the Weather Be?* by Lynda DeWitt or *Weather Words* by Gail Gibbons.

Activity 5: Being Friendly to Our Planet: Spread the Word - Work together in one large or several smaller groups to create a poster to share an idea of how to be kind to our planet Earth.