



Learning on the Go: Early Learning Tips for Young Children The Wonders of Weather

Spring is the season when Montanans often say: “If you don’t like the weather, wait 5 minutes!” It’s a wonderful time of year to teach children about weather:

- Talk to your baby or toddler about the weather. Point out that bright sun makes him close his eyes and so you put a screen on the car window for him. Talk about how the wind blows her hair so that it tickles, or the rain is wet like her bath but may be cold. Discuss choosing the right clothing for the weather: a jacket when it’s cool, but a t-shirt when it’s warm.
- Ask your preschooler about the weather, using lots of different words. Is it cold, warm, or hot? Cloudy, sunny, rainy, windy? Are the clouds dark and heavy with rain, or light and fluffy? Are the clouds moving or still? Is the rain pouring, or just sprinkling? We might even have some sleet to talk about!
- Spend time together outside. Bask for a few minutes in the sun (using sunscreen, of course.) Look for shapes in the clouds. Play with a pinwheel or ribbon streamer in the wind and see which way the wind is blowing. (You can make your own ribbon streamer by taping ribbon on a paper towel roll tube.) Blow bubbles in a light wind. Dress your child in old clothes and boots and go “puddle stomping” in the rain.
- Read books about weather—maybe Little Cloud by Eric Carle or The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins. Sing “Itsy, Bitsy Spider” (especially on those days that the weather is constantly changing!) and teach your child the hand motions.

You can help your child learn while enjoying our spring weather together!

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