

Early Childhood Education Newsletter

Issue 2 March 2009

Theme: Weather



Science is about more than simply learning about a subject. Science is also about the skills and techniques we use to explain our world.

An important science skill is measuring. The activities in this newsletter help young children understand that the world around us changes and these changes can be measured. They are designed to remove the 'black box' approach to weather measurements. By having children involved in building the instruments themselves, they are able to develop a better understanding of how they work.



Feedback

This is what teachers had to say about our 'Animals Around Us' programme:

"This programme is great. love the hands on exploration"

"Thanks so much for this experience. The kids loved it"

"this is an excellent, educational, inspiring programme."

Watch for our Space newsletter coming in May.
Or receive news and updates via email. Just send your contact details to community@sciencealive.co.nz.

Weather Links

Literature:

Maisy's Wonderful Weather Book by Lucy Cousins
It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles G Shaw
The Umbrella Party by Janet Lunn
What Will the Weather be? by Lynda Dewitt
Feel the Wind by Arthur Durros
Down Comes the Rain by Franklyn M Branley
Flash, Crash, Rumble and Roll by Franklyn M Branley

Internet Sites:

www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/weather/index.htm
www.first-school.ws/theme/climate.htm

Early Childhood Education Programme Schedule 2009

Animals Around Us

19 January - 20 March

What's the Forecast?

23 March - 8 April

16 April - 29 May

Out of this World

2 June - 3 July

20 July - 14 August

Inside Me

17 August - 16 October

Machine Madness

19 October - 18 December

For more details, please refer to our 2009 ECE brochure or call (03) 365 5199.



Visit our website to learn how to make a rainbow in your classroom.

www.sciencealive.co.nz/

Botanica - The Buzz about Bees, Bugs, Butterflies and Botanicals

An Interactive Area Exhibition

6 February - 27 April 2009



Visit our interactive area to make an insect, pollinate a plant and witness a live beehive!

Bringing Science To Your Classroom

Make a Weather Station

Make a Thermometer

You will need:

- a plastic bottle
- a clear straw
- a lump of plastercine or play dough
- water with a coloured dye

Instructions

1. Fill the bottle to the very top with the coloured water.
2. Wrap a lump of plastercine around the straw.
3. Push the straw into the bottle and seal around the top with the plastercine.
4. Allow some water to go halfway up the straw.

To use

Mark on your straw where the level of the water is. (This is warm.)

Place the bottle thermometer into a pot of hot water. The water should rise up the straw. Make a mark at the highest point. (This is hot.)

Place the thermometer in a pan of cold/ice water. Mark the new level of the water. (This is cold.)

Make an Anemometer

You will need:

- four bottle lids (three of one colour, one of a different colour)
- two long straws
- a large headed dressmaking pin
- plastic pot with lid
- small piece of foam
- gravel or sand
- hot glue gun

Instructions

1. Fill the plastic pot with sand or gravel and put the lid on firmly. Turn it upside down.
2. Hot glue the straws together in the middle to form a cross.
3. Poke the pin through the middle of the straw cross and then through the foam piece.
4. Make sure the straws can move freely on the pin.
5. Hot glue the lids onto the ends of the straws as shown in the diagram.

To use

Put the anemometer where there is a light breeze.

Count the number of times the vane goes around in one minute.

Try another spot in your playground. Was it more or less windy?