



Young children naturally build knowledge by being curious about the world around them.

Whatever the weather, children love being outside. They enjoy splashing in puddles, playing with shadows, feeling the wind in their hair and watching the clouds move. Explorations of wind, clouds and sunshine help build awareness and vocabulary about weather and lead children to become good observers of their environment. The wind provides children the opportunity to explore the properties of air and feel it on their faces. The windier the better for seeing things fly in the air. Make a simple kite to explore lift.

Cloud Watching

Explorations of wind, clouds and sunshine help build awareness and vocabulary about weather and lead children to become good observers of their environment.

What you need

- Chalk
- Dark paper
- Shaving cream
- Glue
- Hand wipes

What to do

1. Take a blanket outside and lie on your back.
2. Use your dark paper make drawings of the clouds that you see in the sky.
3. Add more dimensions to your clouds by mixing some shaving cream with glue to form clouds on your paper.
4. Look at a book about clouds while you are on the blanket.

What next?

- Draw clouds that you see when the sun starts to set.
- Draw clouds that you see just before it rains.

Looking for more information and activities?

scienceworld.ca/bslh
(The Air up There)

eo.ucar.edu/webweather/cloud3.html

uskidsmags.com/blog/2013/04/15/humpty-dumpty-articles-cloud-shapes/

Books, Resources, Games and Shows

The Cloud Book by Tomie de Paola
(ISBN- 9780823405312)

Kipper's Sunny Day by Mick Inkpen
(ISBN 9780340773994)

Clouds by Anne Rockwell
(ISBN 9780064452205)

How to get most out of your explorations:

- **Dress for the mess**
Science explorations can be messy.
- **Take your time**
Play for as long as the activity holds your child's interest. Don't rush towards the "right" answer.
- **Be curious**
Ask "what would happen if..." and then find out. Let your child's questions guide you.

Sunshine Makes the Seasons
by Franklyn Mansfield Branley
(ISBN 9780060592042)

Feel the Wind by Arthur Dorros
(ISBN 9780064450959)

Little Cloud by Eric Carle
(ISBN 9780698118300)

Maisy's Wonderful Weather Book
by Lucy Cousins
(ISBN 9780763650964)

It Looked Like Spilt Milk
by Charles G. Shaw
(ISBN 9780064431590)

pbskids.org
(Sid the Science Kid games:
Weather Surprises and
Weather Wheel)

pbskids.org
(science games: Air Show, Chasing
Rainbows and Weather)

peepandthebigwideworld.com
(Stormy Weather, Muddy Day—
the full episodes can be found
on YouTube)

Bumblebee Kites

Almost anywhere you go, you'll feel a slight breeze or wind. Have you ever tried to fly a kite? Venture out into your yard or a nearby park and try flying your kite.

What you need

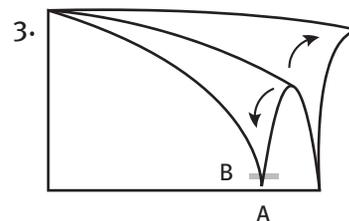
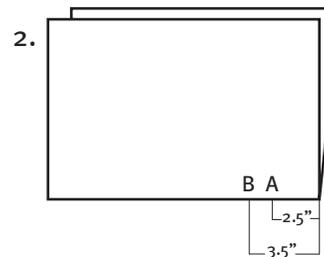
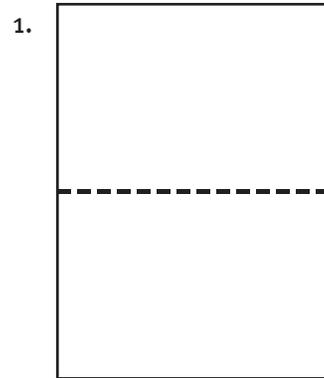
- Letter size paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- String
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Tape
- Hole puncher

What to do

1. Fold the letter size paper in half lengthwise.
2. Use the ruler and pencil and mark point A, 2 1/2" from one end, along the folded edge. Then mark point B, 3 1/2" from the same end.
3. Bend one corner down to point A and tape in place. You want it curved, so do not crease the paper!
4. Turn the kite over and bend down the other corner to point A and tape in place.
5. Cut a piece of string 60cm for the kite line.
6. Punch a hole just above point B and tie on the kite line.
7. Take your kite outside to fly.

What next?

- Try flying your kite low and high. What altitude provides the most lift?
- Try flying your kite without a tail. Does it work as well?
- Try making another size kite or out of different material. Which one worked out better?



Looking for more information and activities?

pbskids.org/sid/letsfly.html
(Discover how things fly)

pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/diy-rockets-video/
(How to build your own rocket)

scienceworld.ca/bslh
(The Air Up There)



Questions to Ask

Why are tails important for flying the kites?

Does your kite fly straighter with or without a tail? What happens if you make the tail longer or shorter?

What would happen if we attached the string to the kite in a different place?

