

Unit Name/Theme: Weather/Wind

What are we doing? Children will make wind using their breath and fans to gain a greater understanding of the properties of wind.

Purpose/Why? Children will gain a greater understanding of wind by creating wind themselves, by hypothesizing and testing their ideas, and build knowledge upon their natural curiosity of weather.

Materials

Provided: Copy of pinwheel pattern (make enough copies for one per student)

https://www-tc.pbs.org/parents/curiousgeorge/activities/pdf/cc_pinwheel_bw.pdf

You will need to provide:

- Variety of small objects, such as: piece of paper, feather, rock, paper cup, plastic spoon, rock, pinecone, piece of wood, pencil, and so forth.
- Thumb tacks, one per child
- Unsharpened pencil, one per child
- Crayons/markers
- Scissors

Optional: Straw for each child, small fan or a hairdryer

Books:

"The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle

"When the Wind Blows" by Linda Booth Sweeney



Ask a Question

- Can you see the wind?
- How do you know when it is windy?
- What can the wind blow? What can the wind *not* blow?
- Can you make wind?

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Quick Start

- Lay out a number of small items on a table. Have the children look at the items and predict if they would be able to move the object by blowing on it.
- Have children try to blow each object (with or without a straw).



Ask a Question

- How were your predictions?
- Discuss if the wind would be able to move the objects. Why or why not?
- Why might the wind be able to move an object that you could not with your breath?



Vocabulary Builder

- Strong Wind
- Breeze
- Blustery
- Gust
- Brisk

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Deeper Dive

- Cut out the square of pinwheel. Have the children color/decorate *both* sides of the square.
- Cut along the dotted line. DO NOT cut through the circle in the middle.
- Fold the left corner of each section to the middle and push your thumbtack through the paper as well as through the eraser of the pencil.
- Now gently blow on the pinwheel to make it spin. You may use a fan, hairdryer, or even take them outside to let the wind blow them.



Ask a Question

- Why does the pinwheel spin?
- How is your blowing like the wind? How is the fan like the wind?
- Does the pinwheel spin when you blow gently? How about if you blow hard? How does the pinwheel spin in the wind outside?

Other Activities:

Make your own kite or windsock! Be sure to check out Pinterest for ideas for kites or windsocks.

Possible materials you could use:

- Paper bags
- Ribbons
- Tissue paper