

# Stay at Home Science

## Weather Wheel

### What You Need

Printed weather wheel (or blank paper, ruler and a bowl)  
Crayons or markers  
Scissors  
Brass fastener



### What You Do

1. Color the weather wheel template from [imaginationstationtoledo.org](http://imaginationstationtoledo.org) (or create your own) and discuss what types of weather you most commonly experience in your area.
2. Cut out your weather wheel and arrow. Use a brass fastener to attach the arrow.  
(Young children may need help from an older child or adult when using scissors).
3. Choose a place to display your weather wheel. Pick a time each day that you will observe the weather together and record it on your weather wheel.

### Questions to ask

- What did it feel like outside today?
- What do you see in the sky? Are there clouds? Sunshine?
- Did you have to wear anything special today (like a coat or sunglasses) to go outside?

### What's the Science?

Weather is the conditions of the sky and air outside on a given day, including the temperature, wind, clouds, and rain. Young children can learn that the weather can affect our lives. It can affect whether we choose to wear a hat and sunscreen, rainboots, or a snowsuit. Weather can also affect what we do that day – whether we go swimming at the beach, build a snowman, or stay inside. Severe weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes can have more significant affects on our lives as well.

### Try This

**Use science vocabulary:** Use related science words such as weather, temperature, warm, cold, rain, snow, or wind as you talk and play together. Children learn new vocabulary words when they hear grown-ups use them in context.

**For older children:** Add an extra challenge for older children. Skip the weather wheel template and encourage them to create their own from scratch!

### Keep in Mind

- Children are natural scientists; let them lead the way in their experimentation!  
Encourage them to ask questions and make suggestions only when they are stuck/discouraged.
- The order suggested is not the only right or perfect way. Adjust the activities based on the age, ability, and interests of the children.

### Additional Resources

*Worm Weather* by Jean Taft

*How's the Weather* by Rozanne Lanczak Williams

*It's Raining, It's Pouring* by Kin Eagle

Scholastic StudyJams: Weather Instruments

<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/jams/science/weather-and-climate/weather-instruments.htm>

