

Home Visit Notes

Lesson: Wise about Weather

Objectives:

- Encourage reading in the home and model reading skills.
- Empower the student with knowledge.
- Increase the confidence level of the student in the classroom and as a parent.
- Help students see themselves as capable teachers of their children.
- Foster fun learning interaction between parent and child.
- Reinforce knowledge learned in the classroom by following up in the home.
- Provide hands-on activities.
- Provide and encourage healthy snacks.

Activities:

General—All types of weather

1. Weather Kitty—Discuss what types of clothes you would wear on a rainy day, snowy day, hot & sunny day, etc. Dress the Weather Kitty with the appropriate clothes for the day. (You can find additional categories of clothes and cut-out kids at www.makingfriends.com) Use sticky tack to attach the clothes to the Kitty. Sing the Weather song as you do it. (Melody is the Flintstones song.)

*Weather, What's the weather. What's the weather like outside today?
(Child's name) can you tell us if we can go outside and play today?*

2. Encourage reading by making a bookmark. Cut a shape out of foam board and glue it to a Popsicle stick. You can use different shapes for different times of the year. For example, a leaf or pumpkin for fall or a snowman for the winter. Write a corresponding phrase on the Popsicle stick before gluing the foam shape. For example, "Fall for Reading". (A leaf template is included in activity # 21.) The child can also color the Popsicle stick with markers to match or contrast the foam shape.
3. Have students sing familiar weather songs, to develop their individual singing. Include some instruments (can be made by the child) to help

with the rhythm. Some examples of weather songs are the following:

"I Love a Rainy Night"
"The Rain Song"
"Dust in the Wind"
"Let It Snow"
"Rain, Rain, Go Away"
"Heat Is On"
"Here Comes the Sun"
"Blue Skies"
"You Are My Sunshine"
"Somewhere over the Rainbow"

Rain

4. Playing in the rain can be fun especially if you are making art while you are doing it. Put on your rain gear and make a rain painting.
5. Complete the "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" activity. *This activity is also included in the GED Curriculum as a class activity.*
6. Read "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" by Dr. Seuss. Have the child make Oobleck. *There is a corresponding activity in the GED Curriculum.*
7. Wet your whistle with rainbow juice. This healthy snack is a good way to help children get in their "5 a Day".
8. Rainsticks are ceremonial musical instruments used to invoke the rain spirits. Make a simplified version of a rainstick.
9. Make an edible rainbow necklace. Cut a piece of yarn long enough to fit over the child's head. Then have the child string Fruit Loops onto the yarn until it is full. Tie off the end. The child can wear it until snack time. Remember, cereal is fortified with many essential nutrients.
10. Make rainbow crayons that you can use for your next project.

Sun

11. Sun exposure safety sheet. (handout) Use this activity along with activities 12, 13, & 14. *This activity is also in the GED curriculum.*
12. Make sun catchers. Choose one of three different methods depending on ability level and supplies on hand.
13. Kids need so much energy while they're growing up that they often can't get enough from three square meals. Instead of fretting,

encourage your child to choose the most nutritious snacks. Make a delicious tropical treat for a sunny day.

14. A child's hand print is unique and special. Make a hand print sun using the child's hand.

Snow

15. Play in the snow in the summer. Place a pile of shaving cream on a placemat (activity # 21) and let the child have some good clean fun.
16. Make a paper plate snowman.
17. Make a yummy and nutritious snowy day snack. These two snacks provide a fun way to add "veggies" into the child's diet.
18. Try the winter concentration game.

Wind

19. Talk about things that happen in the spring. Trees bud, grass grows, and caterpillars change into butterflies. Make these cute and easy caterpillars & butterflies.
20. Watch as a tornado forms right before your eyes. Make a tornado flipbook and watch a funnel form underneath a thunderstorm, reach down to the ground, pull up an envelope of dust around itself, then lose power and start to disappear into the whirling clouds above.
21. Wind can blow all of the leaves off the trees in autumn. Make a fall leaves placemat.
22. Try making some of your own bubbles and then blowing them in the wind.
23. You can't see wind but you can see the effects of wind by making a windsock.

24. A book about the rainforest is included in the kit. Encourage the family to go to the library and find more books about weather, the rainforest, or books by the same authors. Also, a theme related book list is provided to give you some ideas. The books are listed according to age groups. Happy Reading!

Activity # 3

Musical Bottles

Materials:

- Water or soda bottles (20 oz)
- Rice or noodles
- Glitter or Sequins
- Tape or Glue
- Ribbon
- Stickers (optional)

Procedure:

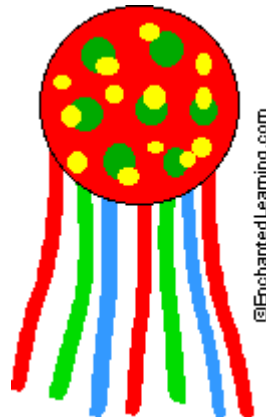
1. Fill a clean, dry bottle 1/4 - 1/2 full with noodles or rice. Add glitter, sequins, and or paper punches to add color.
2. Tape (or glue) the lid on and then tie a ribbon around the neck of the bottle.
3. Decorate the outside of the bottle with stickers if desired.
4. Turn on the music, dance, and make lots of wonderful noise!

Paper Plate Maracas

A maraca is a Latin American and Tupi rattle. The original maracas were made from hollow gourds filled with pebbles or seeds.

Materials:

- Two paper plates
- Dried beans, rice, or popcorn
- Stapler
- Paint, markers, or crayons
- Crepe paper streamers



Procedure:

1. Decorate the outside of both plates using crayons, markers, crayons, and or stickers.
2. Staple crepe paper streamers to the inside of one of the plates.
3. Add dried beans, rice or unpopped popcorn to the plate.
4. Cover with the other plate and staple around the edges so that the beans don't fall out.
5. These are fun because you can make a lot of noise!

Activity # 5

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

Use children's' literature as a spark for creative writing about the weather.

Materials:

- "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" by Judi Barrett
- Paper
- Pencils
- Fabric
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Misc. art supplies
- Yarn
- Hole punch

Activity:

1. Read "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" aloud to the child.
2. Explain that the child is going to create his or her own version of "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs". Tell the child to decide on four objects that will fall from the sky that were not in the book. Some ideas are favorite animals, favorite games, patterns, etc.
3. Have the child write and illustrate what is happening in the new book. The illustrations can be done in two-dimensions using crayons and paper, or in three-dimensions using objects such as cotton balls, glitter, etc.
4. Create a cover with the child's name on and hole punch the pages. Tie pieces of yarn to create a book the child can keep.

Activity # 4

Rain Painting

This activity, from the "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" department, makes the most of rainy weather.

Materials:

- Paper plate (Chinet or other uncoated plate)
- Food coloring
- White crayon
- Spray bottle if there is not any rain

Step 1:

Sprinkle a few drops of food coloring on a paper plate.

Step 2:

Get into rain gear and walk outdoors with the plate for about a minute and watch as artistic designs appear.

Step 3:

Next, for a batik effect, try drawing a white crayon design on a new plate. Then add some food coloring and head out.

You can use a spray bottle and squirt the paper plate as an alternative if the sun is shining.

Activity # 6

Bartholomew and the Oobleck

In this lesson children will better understand through hands-on experience about liquids and **solids**.

Materials:

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Bowl
- Rock
- Green food coloring
- Sandwich size zipper baggie

Procedure:

1. Show the child a rock and a glass of water. Ask how these are different?
2. Explain that the water is a liquid and a rock is a solid.
3. Read " Bartholomew and the Oobleck " by Dr. Seuss and have the child predict from the cover of the book what Oobleck could be.
4. Allow the child to mix 4 ounces of cornstarch and 2 ounces of water together (2 parts cornstarch to 1 part water) and add green food coloring.
5. Let the child play with the Oobleck to get a good sense of what it may be.
6. Ask the child if Oobleck is a liquid or a solid? What makes him or her think so?
7. Have the child put the Oobleck in the plastic baggie to save for later. Explain that if it dries out you just need to add more water.

Activity # 14

Handprint Sun

Materials:

- Yellow and orange foam board.
- Scissors
- Glue
- A child's handprint
- Ribbon
- Black foam mouth
- Blue foam sunglasses



Procedure:

1. Trace and cut out three handprints on the yellow foam sheet. Trace and cut out three handprints on the orange foam sheet. These six handprints will be used as the sun's rays.
2. Glue the yellow and orange handprints to the back of the yellow sun circle alternating between colors as shown.
3. Make the sun's face by gluing the black foam mouth to the front of the sun. Glue the blue sunglass frames to the top of the black sunglasses and then glue the completed sunglasses to the front of the sun.
4. Make the hanger by gluing both ends of the yellow satin ribbon to the top of the sun.

Activity # 16

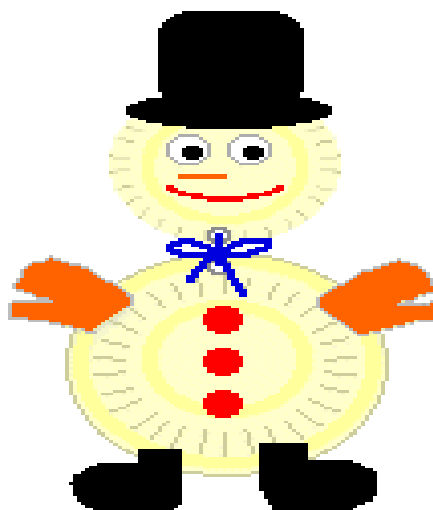
Make a Snowman from Paper Plates

from Enchantedlearning.com

Make a cute snowman decoration using two paper plates. This makes a nice decoration to put on a door or hang in a window.

Materials:

- 2 white paper plates
- Black construction paper
- Red construction paper or wrapping paper
- An orange pipe cleaner (for the nose)
- A short length of yarn or ribbon
- Hole punch
- Marker or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional: google eyes or large buttons



Procedure:

1. On one of the paper plates, cut off the outer rim, making a smaller plate.
2. Punch a hole near the rim on both plates.
3. Tie the two plates together using the ribbon or yarn.
4. On black construction paper, draw and then cut out a top hat and two boots. On colored construction paper (or gift wrap paper), draw and then cut out two mittens.
5. Glue the hat, boots, and mittens on the snowman.
6. Either glue on google eyes or draw eyes. Draw a mouth. For the nose, cut a short length from an orange pipe cleaner. Stick the pipe cleaner through the plate to secure it (if the plate is too tough, make a tiny hole with the tip of the scissors). For the buttons, you can cut out shapes from construction paper, use round stickers, glue on real buttons, or simply draw them.
7. You now have a cute snowman decoration!



Activity # 10

Rainbow Crayons

Do you have a lot of little pieces of crayons that nobody wants to use? Recycle those pieces and make unique rainbow crayons that you can use for your next project.

Materials:

- Muffin pan
- Oven
- Foil muffin liners
- Broken crayons that have paper removed

Procedure:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Place muffin liners in pan.
3. Place broken crayons in liners.(All different colors are great!)
4. Place pan in oven and watch carefully.
5. After crayons have melted together, carefully remove from the oven.
(ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED!)
6. Let cool.
7. Remove the liners and you have new crayons!

NOTE: DO NOT fill liners more than half full when it heats up it could bubble over and leave a mess.

Safety in the Sun!

Be sure, if possible, that children avoid sunburn, as most long term sun damage is done before the age of 18 years. One or two bad sunburns before this age can cause skin cancer many years later. The damage may be done early and is cumulative, but may not be evident for 20 years or more. Also, burns that occur once or twice a year while on vacation are much worse than slow tanning. It's best to make the use of a sunscreen a habit at an early age.

No child 6 months old or younger should be exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. The baby should have a hooded carriage or stroller, be wearing a hat and clothing. After 6 months of age sunscreen usage may be started, and should be used on a regular basis when the child is to be out of doors.

If possible, the following list should be adhered to:

- Avoid prolonged direct sun exposure during peak hours (10 AM - 3 PM)
- Use a sunscreen of at least an SPF 15 - it is also wise to wear protective clothing and a hat.
- Re-apply sunscreen after swimming.
- Try to make the application of sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) a matter of the child's daily routine.
- Set a good example by doing the same thing for you as children are more likely to learn what they see, not just what you tell them.
- Send sunscreen to camp with the child to be applied prior to exposure. If it is day camp, apply sunscreen before leaving for camp each day. Be sure it is re-applied after swimming

Information adapted from www.dermaesthetics.com

Sun Catchers

Here are several different ideas for a sun catcher depending on the age of the child and the availability of supplies.

Sun Catcher #1

Materials:

- 2 CDs (free internet connection ones work great)
- Pictures from wrapping paper or of the child or pet
- Glue
- Yarn or fishing line for hanging

Procedure:

1. Take two CDs and glue them together with the writing on the inside and the shiny, plain part on the outside.
2. Then use pictures from wrapping paper or a photograph of a child or pet and glue on the CD.
3. Drill small hole on the top and tie a piece of yarn or fishing line to make a hanger. The shiny part will reflect sunlight and make a nice sun catcher. *(For the sake of safety, you may want to drill the holes prior to the child making the suncatcher.)*

Idea adapted from Cathy Lash from familyinternet.com

Sun Catcher #2

Materials:

- Clear contact paper
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors

Procedure:

1. Cut out two small, rectangular pieces of contact paper.
2. Ask the child to help you tear the tissue paper into small bits.
3. Peel off the backing of one of the pieces of contact paper.
4. Let the child stick pieces of tissue paper to it.
5. When it is pretty well filled, cover it with the second piece of contact paper.
6. Smooth it out, and then cut into whatever shape you wish. Make the shape of the sun catchers to fit any theme you like: hearts, flowers, eggs, stars, etc.
7. Hang it from the window with tape.

Idea adapted from storknet.com

Sun Catcher #3

Materials:

- Old small crayons
- Wax paper
- Iron
- Ribbon
- Crayon sharpener

Procedure:

1. Peel paper off crayons and shave crayons onto wax paper with a crayon sharpener.
2. Cover with a second sheet of wax paper.
3. Press with a low iron to melt the crayon shavings.
4. Remove from wax paper and cut into shape of your choosing. Make the shape of the sun catchers to fit any theme you like: hearts, flowers, eggs, stars, etc.
5. Add a ribbon and hang as a sun catcher.

Special care from the adult should be given in this craft when using a hot iron!

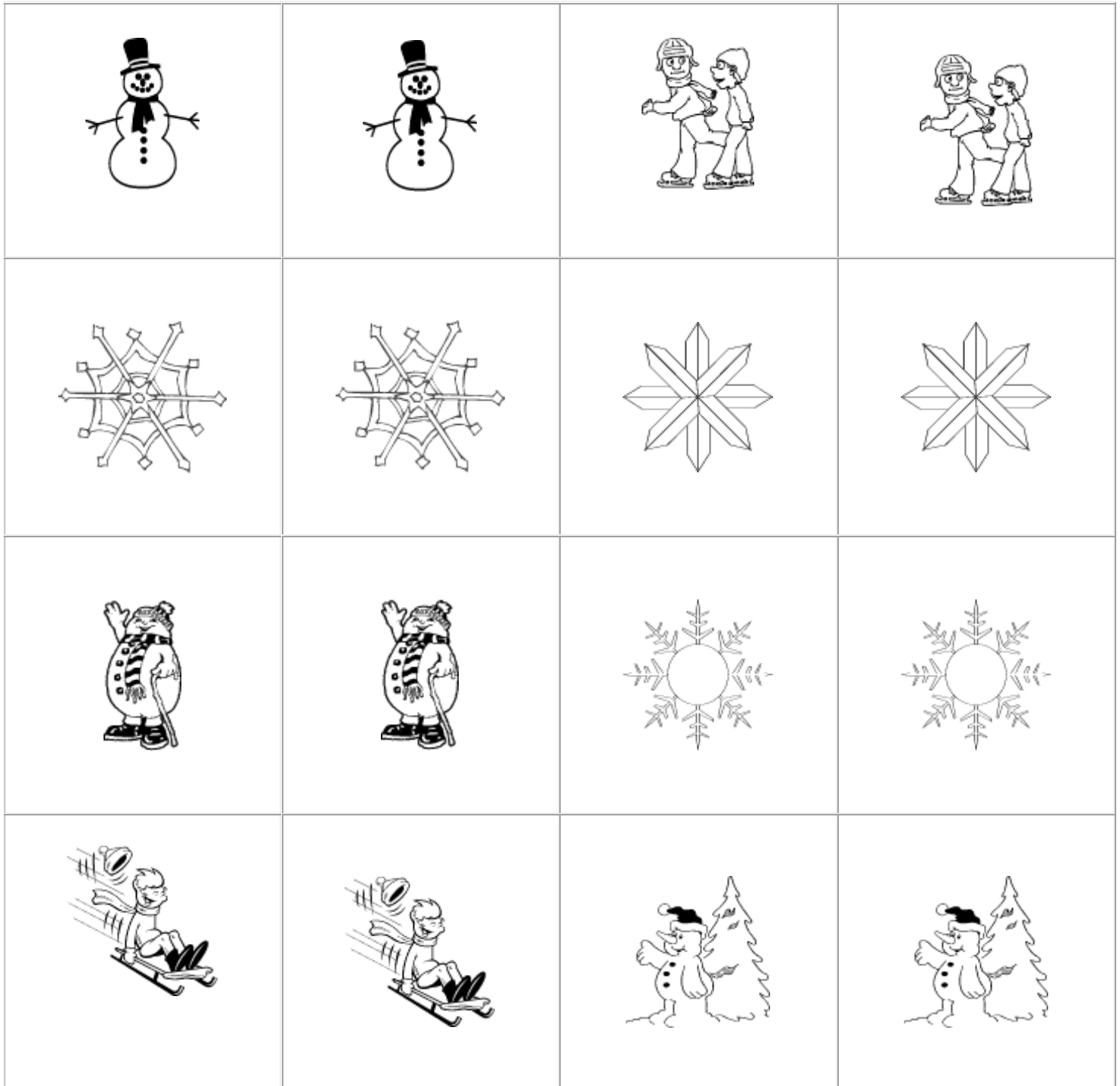
Idea adapted from www.kare11.com

Activity # 18

Winter Concentration Game

©abcteach.com

Cut out and paste on colored paper. Turn cards over and pick two. If they match keep face up, if they don't turn over and try again.



Activity # 21 (Page 1 of 2)

Fall Leaves Placemats

Supplies:

- Construction paper leaf cutouts
- Wax Paper
- Iron
- Crayon shavings
- Pencil sharpener (for the crayons)
- Scissors (with pattern)
- Digital picture or Polaroid picture of the child

Take one piece of wax paper, any size, and place the name or a picture of the child in the center of one piece. Add some leaf cutouts and crayon shavings around the picture/name. Take another piece of wax paper, same size, and lay this carefully over the first piece. Iron the two pieces together using a medium setting on the iron until the crayon shavings melt. **(Adult supervision required.)** Let the placemat cool then cut the edges with patterned scissors. Use the placemats for a tea party or whenever you are doing "messy" work. These clear placemats can also be hung in windows.

Alternative method:

If you don't want to use an iron for safety reasons, you can use two pieces of clear contact paper instead of the waxed paper.

Activity # 19 (Page 1 of 2)

Caterpillars

Children are sure to love these cute creatures. They will want to have one in every color.

Materials:

- Black chenille stem (1)
- 6 other chenille stems in two different colors (3 of each)
- an unsharpened pencil
- scissors

Procedure:

1. Cut the 6 chenille stems in half so that you have 6 pieces of each color.
2. Wrap the pieces tightly around a pencil.
3. Fold the black chenille stem in half to form a V.
4. Take one of the pieces off of the pencil and thread the black chenille stem through one of the loops of rolled stem. Push the rolled stem all the way to the vertex of the V.
5. Push the black V stem together and then thread the rest of the rolled stems onto **BOTH** sides of the black stem. Alternate the colors to produce a striped caterpillar.
6. After you have all the rolled stems on the black stem, separate the black stems and curl the ends to look like the antenna on bug.

Activity # 19 (Page 2 of 2)

Coffee Filter Butterflies

Materials:

- coffee filter
- washable markers
- spray bottle
- popsicle stick
- magnet
- chenille stem (cut in half)
- google eyes
- newspaper or plastic tablecloth

Procedure:

1. Flatten out the coffee filter and color it with the washable markers. The more color you put on the filter, the brighter and more vivid the butterfly will be.
2. Cover your work area with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth. (This part can tend to get messy.) Then using a spray bottle filled with water, squirt the filter until it is totally saturated. You will begin to see the colors bleed when you add the water.
3. Allow the filters to dry. You can clip the wet filter to a clothesline with a clothespin and speed up the drying process by using a hairdryer.
4. When the filter is completely dry, scrunch it together in the middle and secure with the chenille stem. (It will look like a bow tie.) Then glue the filter to a Popsicle stick (you can color it with markers beforehand).
5. Add google eyes (if desired) to the Popsicle stick and curl the chenille stem so that it looks like antenna.
6. Glue a magnet strip to the back and it can be placed on the refrigerator.

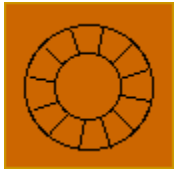
Activity # 8 (Page 1 of 2)

Rain Sticks

from Enchantedlearning.com

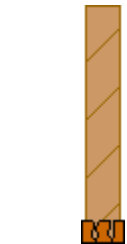
Materials:

- A paper towel tube or other long cardboard tube
- Aluminum foil
- Small dried beans (like lentils), unpopped popcorn, dry rice, or tiny pasta.
- Brown paper (from a grocery bag) or construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers

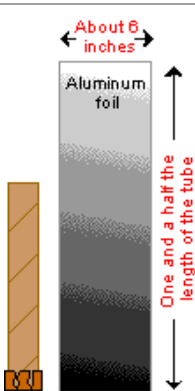


Trace around the end of your tube onto a piece of brown paper (or construction paper).

Draw a bigger circle around that circle and then draw a lot of spokes between the two circles. Cut along the spokes.

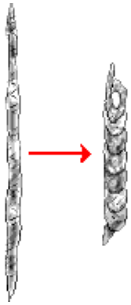

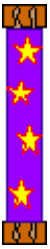



Put glue on the spokes and glue the cap onto one end of your tube.



Cut a piece of aluminum foil that is about one and half times the length of your tube and about 6 inches wide.

Activity # 8 (Page 2 of 2)

	<p>Crunch the aluminum foil into two long, thin, snake-like shapes. Then twist each one into a spring shape.</p>
	<p>Put the aluminum foil springs into your tube.</p> <p>Pour some rice, dry beans, or unpopped popcorn into your tube (but not too much). The tube should only be about 1/10 full. You can experiment to see how different amounts and different types of seeds and beans change the sound. Make another cap from brown paper (the same as the first three steps) and cap your tube.</p>
	<div></div> <p>Optional: Decorate the tube by covering it with brown paper or construction paper, and then making designs with crayons or markers (or cut-out paper or stickers).</p> <p>Rainforest designs are nice, especially brightly-colored butterflies, frogs, and flowers. Tiny construction paper butterflies (like the one on the right) are nice glued onto the rainstick.</p>

Activity # 7

Wet Your Whistle with Rainbow Juice

Ingredients:

- 3 different kinds of juice with different colors like pineapple, grape, orange, etc.
- ice cube tray
- clear juice such as white grape juice



Directions:

Pour several different colored juices in an ice cube tray and freeze. Place a few different colored cubes in a clear glass and pour clear juice on top.

Variation:

A variation of this snack is to use Jello. Each layer of Jello has to harden before adding the next layer. Fruit can be added for extra interest and nutrition. This would need to be made ahead of time, but would provide an interesting conversation starter.

Activity # 17

Snowy Day Snacks

Adapt these yummy treats to fit a snowy day or to coordinate with a snowy craft.

Children on a Sled

Ingredients:

- Celery sticks
- Cream cheese
- Raisins



Directions:

Spread the snow (cream cheese) on the celery sticks. Place the children playing (raisins) on the snow.

Mound of Snow Dip

Ingredients:

- ½ package vegetable soup mix
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 pint cottage cheese



Directions:

Mix all the above ingredients to make a “mound of snow”. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Serve with vegetables such as carrots, cucumber slices, cauliflower, broccoli, or celery sticks.

Activity # 13

Plateful of Cloud Nine

Brighten up any day with a delicious tropical treat: sunny pineapple slices peeking out from behind billowy marshmallow cream clouds.

Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ pint yogurt
- 1 tsp. pineapple juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. vanilla extract
- Cups mini marshmallows
- Fresh or canned pineapple slices



Directions:

In a chilled mixing bowl, combine the yogurt, pineapple juice and vanilla extract. Combine and fold in mini marshmallows.

Trim the outer edges of the pineapple slices to resemble sun rays. Place each pineapple slice in the center of a plate and top with a dollop of yogurt.

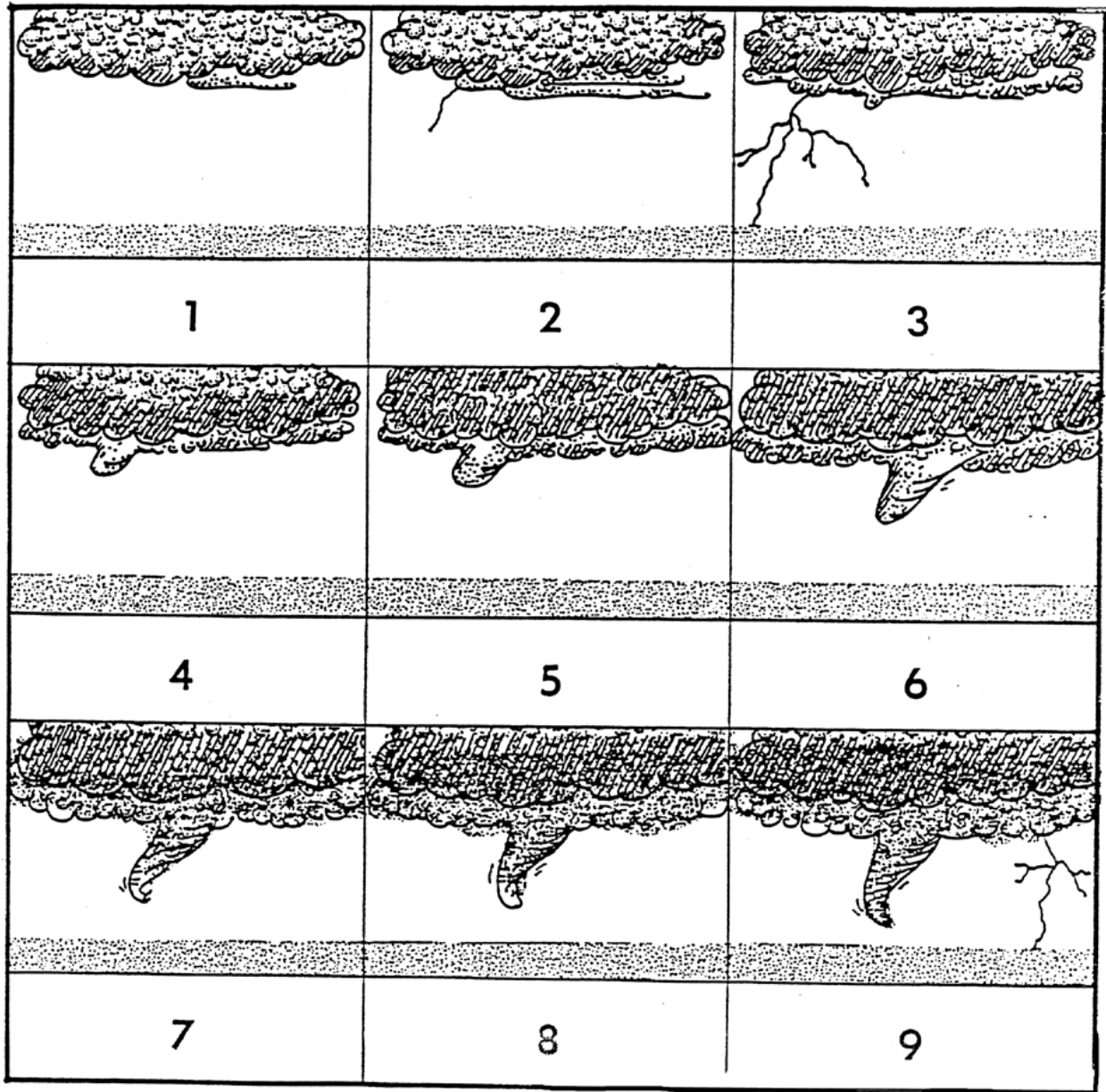
Adapted from familyfun.com

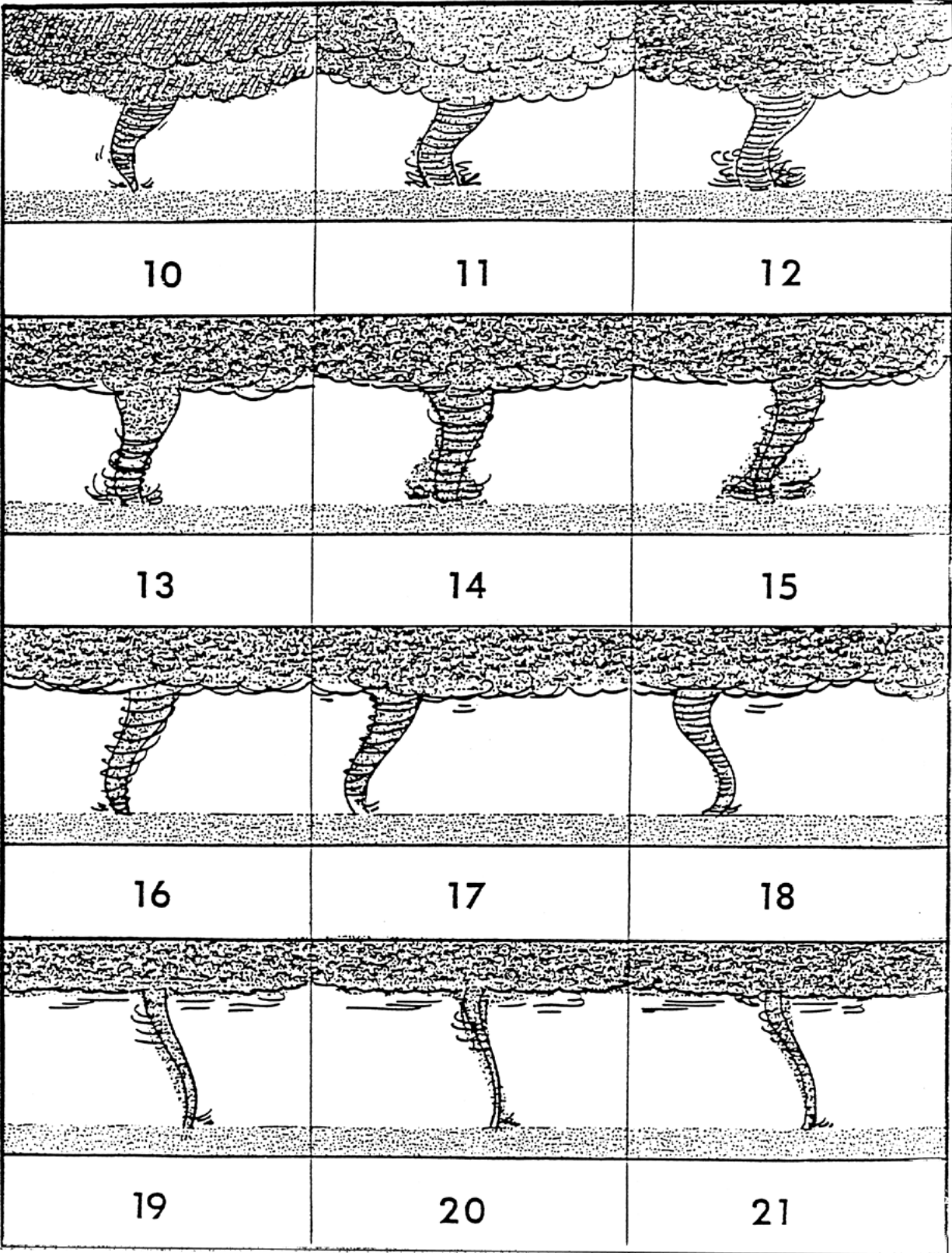
Activity # 20 (Page 1 of 3)

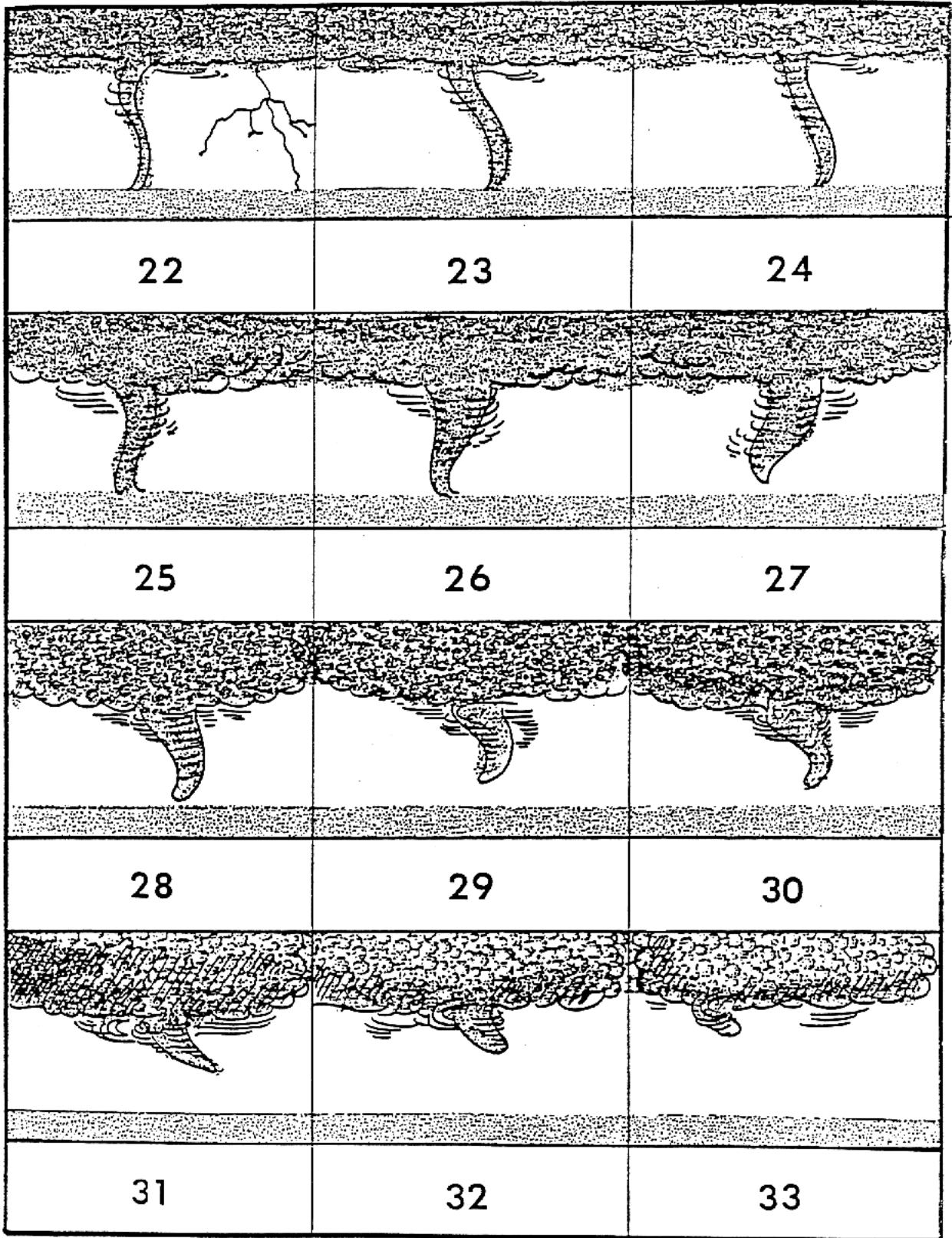
Watch A Tornado Form

With this flipbook, you can watch a funnel form underneath a thunderstorm, reach down to the ground, pull up an envelope of dust around itself, then lose power and start to disappear into the whirling clouds above.

Cut along the solid lines and construct a flipbook. Put the pictures in order with #1 on top and #33 on the bottom. Punch two holes along the side and tie a piece of yarn to secure the book.







Activity # 22

Bubbles

What child doesn't love bubbles? Here is an easy recipe for bubbles they are sure to enjoy.

Materials:

- 6 cups of water
- 2 cups of dishwashing liquid
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of corn syrup

Procedure:

1. Mix together.
2. Let it sit for about 4 hours.
3. Enjoy!

Adapted from handcraftersvillage.com

Activity # 23

Windsock

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Crepe paper
- Markers, crayons, and/or paint
- Stapler
- Glue
- Hole punch
- Yarn or lanyard
- Stickers (optional)

Procedure:

1. Decorate one side of a piece of construction paper. (It is cute to make thumbprint pictures.)
2. Staple the paper into a tube going the short way.
3. Punch one hole in the top of the tube and another on the opposite side.
4. String a piece of lanyard or yarn and tie off the ends. This will be the handle to hang it.
5. Glue or staple 12" strips of crepe paper on the bottom. *Discuss 12" equals one foot.*
6. Hang it up and when someone walks by creating enough breeze, the windsock will move up and down and side to side.

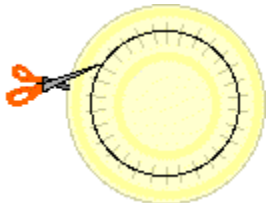
Make a Snowman from Paper Plates

[More Kinder Crafts](#)

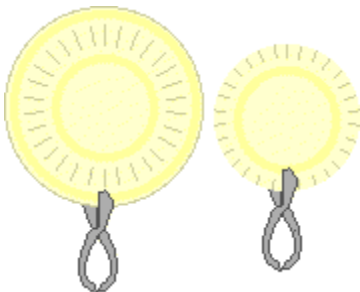
Make a cute snowman decoration using two paper plates. This makes a nice decoration to put on a door or hang in a window

Supplies needed:

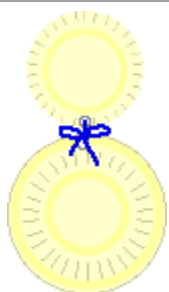
- 2 white paper plates
- Construction paper (black, red) or wrapping paper
- An orange pipe cleaner (for the nose)
- A short length of yarn or ribbon
- Hole punch
- Marker or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional: googly eyes, large buttons



On one of the paper plates, cut off the outer rim, making a smaller plate.



Punch a hole near the rim on both plates.



Tie the two plates together, using the yarn (or ribbon).



On black construction paper, draw and then cut out a top hat and two boots. On colored construction paper (or gift wrap paper), draw and then cut out two mittens.



Glue the hat, boots and mittens on the snowman.



Either glue on googly eyes or draw eyes. Draw a mouth. For the nose, cut a short length from an orange pipe cleaner. Stick the pipe cleaner through the plate to secure it (if the plate is too tough, make a tiny hole with the tip of the scissors).

For the buttons, you can cut out shapes from construction paper, use round stickers, glue on real buttons, or simply draw them.

You now have a cute snowman decoration!

Activity # 24 (Page 1 of 2)

Family Education Books about Weather

Preschool

<u>Bob the Builder: Bob's Snowy Day</u>	Annie Auerbach
<u>Clifford's First snow Day</u>	Norman Bridwell
<u>Clifford the Weather Dog</u> <u>Dream Snow</u>	Norman Bridwell Eric Carle
<u>The Cloud Book</u>	Tomie dePaola
<u>Froggy Gets Dressed</u>	Jonathon London
<u>Kipper's Book of Weather</u>	Mick Inkpen
<u>Seasons</u>	Ann Marie McLaughlin
<u>Snowballs</u>	Lois Ehlert
<u>Whatever the Weather, Claude!</u>	David Wojtowycz

Ages 4-10

<u>Can it Rain Cats and Dogs!: Questions and Answers about Weather</u>	Melvin Berger, Gilda Berger
<u>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</u>	Judith Barrett
<u>Fall Leaves (My First Hello Reader Book)</u>	Mary Packard
<u>Giants Don't Go Snowboarding (Adventures of the Bailey School Kids)</u>	Debbie Dadey
<u>The Magic School Bus Kicks up a Storm: A Book about Weather</u>	Nancy White
<u>The Magic School Bus Wet All Over: A Book about the Water Cycle</u>	Joanne Cole

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Tornadoes: And Other Dramatic Weather
Systems

Michael Allaby

Twister on Tuesday (Magic Tree House)

Mary Pope Osborne

Weather: Poems for All Seasons

Lee Bennett Hopkins

Who Lives in the Rainforest?
(Science Emergent Readers)

Susan Canizares, Mary Reid

Wild Weather: Blizzards!

Lorraine Jean Hopping

Wild Weather: Lightning!

Lorraine Jean Hopping