Science Activity
Air and Wind

SETUP
• The goal of this activity is for children to explore the properties of air and wind and to understand that air can move things.
• For indoor play, assemble objects and straws.
• For outdoor play, go outside together on a windy day.

DO IT TOGETHER
• For indoor play, ask your child to blow on his hands and wave them in the air. “What do you feel? Blow hard, blow soft, wave hard, wave soft. Does that change what you feel?” Talk about what air is. “Can you see air? Can you hold it? What happens to the object when you blow on it?” Talk with your child about how, when you blow air, it becomes wind, and about how wind can push things.

• Encourage your child to use descriptive words like faster and slower.

• Have your child choose different objects to blow on with the straw. “What happens to the feather? The rock?” Have your child try out different ways to create wind besides blowing. “Can you move the paper by waving your hands?” Experiment with blowing objects on different surfaces—for example, a rough carpet or the grass.

DO MORE OF IT!
• Runway Races. Make a runway race game by sticking painter’s tape on the floor or on a tabletop to create a track. The track can be wider for younger children and narrower for older. Set your child up with a straw and pom-poms at the head of the track and see how fast he can blow his pom-pom to the finish line. For more challenges, try other kinds of objects, such as a cork or a paper ball.

• Float Your Boat. Line up floating toys in the water. You can use bathtub toys or make your own boats out of tinfoil. Use a straw to blow the toy across the water. Do this a few times, blowing harder and softer. “What happens when you blow on the toy?” See if your child notices if the toy moves, stays still, falls over, or goes faster. You and your child can experiment with changing the shape of your tinfoil boat to help it catch more wind or not tip over as easily.

(continued on side 2)
(continued from side 1)

BOOKS

• *The Wind Blew* by Pat Hutchins
• *I Face the Wind* by Vicki Cobb
• *Wind* by Erin Edison
• *Where Does the Wind Blow?* by Cindy Rink

OTHER RESOURCES

• Visit your local library.
• Visit your local museum, nature center, zoo, or aquarium.
• Check out Brain Building Zones for local events in Massachusetts at http://brainbuildinginprogress.org/event-calendar.
• Check out www.resourcesforearlylearning.org and www.peepandthebigwideworld.org.

MATERIALS

◆ Indoor air and wind activities:
  ○ Straws
  ○ Assorted objects to blow on: feathers, pom-poms, corks, paper, salt, rocks

◆ Outdoor air and wind activities:
  ○ A windy day!
  ○ Leaves, a kite, light objects found in nature

Learning Guideline:
PreK-LS1-4: Use their five senses in their exploration and play to gather information.

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