

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT... "THE WEATHER"

"Weather" is a topic that early childhood educators may choose to discuss on a daily basis or as a thematic unit. Young learners can grasp the very basic "weather" terminology as long as it is presented in a concrete manner. The more abstract aspects and terminology related to "weather" and "weather conditions" can be explored with children as they get older. These introductory definitions and activities are meant to allow the children to begin to build a basis for future understanding and comprehension of "weather."

## The "Weather" Basics/Words



*clouds* - Clouds are formed when millions of drops of water around tiny dust particles stick together.



*day* - Time between sunrise and sunset. The sky is usually lit by the sun and appears blue in color.

*forecast* - To predict what may happen to the weather based on statistical data and observations



*icicles* - Dripping water that freezes as it falls and forms into a hanging mass



*moon* - A white sphere in the sky that revolves around the Earth. It appears to change forms - smaller or larger, crescent shapes.

*night* - Time between sunset and sunrise. The sky is usually dark, but may be lit by bright stars and the moon.



*puddles* - Pools of water that often form on the ground during and after a rainstorm. Puddles disappear as the water is heated and turned back into water vapor, known as evaporation.



*rain* - Droplets of water that fall out of clouds to the ground



*rainbow* - An arc of colors which forms as the sunlight shines through droplets of water at the end of a rainstorm. The water splits the sunlight into different colors, forming a rainbow. Rainbows can be found in oil spots on wet roads, in pieces of glass, on mirrors, and in soap bubbles. The color arrangement is always the same: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Some people use the acronym ROY G. BIV to remember the order.



*shadows* - Shadows appear because sunlight does not shine through a solid object. For example, the sunlight cannot shine through your body, so opposite the sunlight, a shadow forms at the side of your body.



*snow* - Frozen water that falls out of clouds to the ground. Each snowflake is unique and has six sides.

*storm* - To rain, snow, or hail heavily



*sun* - The shining body (star) in the sky that provides heat and light to the planets that revolve around it. It appears round in shape and yellow in color. However, during sunrise and sunset, it may appear orangish or reddish in color.

*temperature* - The coolness or warmness of air, water, or the body as measured by a thermometer.



*thermometer* - Tool used to measure the temperature of air, water, or the body.



*thunder and lightning* - Thunder is the loud sound often heard during a rainstorm and accompanied by lightning. Lightning is a flash of light often seen during a rainstorm and accompanied by thunder.



*wind* - The movement of air

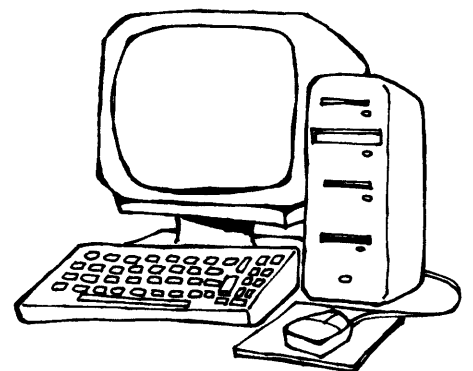
**Look for more interesting information on the following websites:**

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

<http://faldo.atmos.uiuc.edu/WEATHER/weather.html>

[www.wxdude.com](http://www.wxdude.com)

[www.whnt19.com/kidwx/](http://www.whnt19.com/kidwx/)



# Thematic Literature List

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- Hoban, Julia. **Amy Loves Rain**. Scholastic, Inc., 1989
- Keller, Holly. **Snow is Falling, Let's Read and Find Out Science**. HarperCollins Publications, 2000
- Mandell, Muriel. **Simple Weather Experiments with Everyday Materials**. Sterling Publishing Co., 1990
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## Concepts & Vocabulary

clouds  
lightning  
rainbow  
star  
thunder

cold  
moon  
seasons  
storm  
tornado

fog  
puddles  
shadows  
sun  
weather

hot  
rain  
snow  
temperature  
wind

