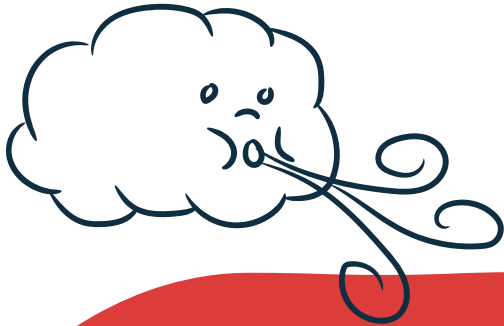
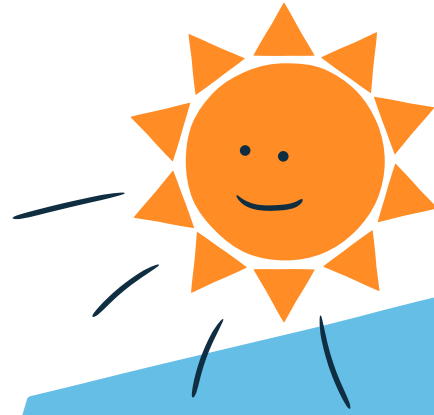


At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers (0–2 years old)

Week of July 20, 2020

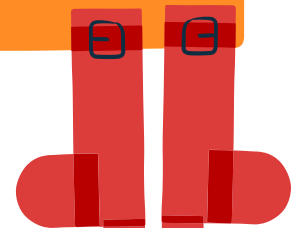


This week your child will continue their learning about **weather**! Whether you're experiencing hot summer days or cool summer showers, this week's activities provide lots of opportunities to explore all types of weather!



Sensory experiences this week will help you and your child cool down if the weather is hot, and if that doesn't help, you can read a story about snow and imagine yourself away from the heat. There will also be time to sing and dance when you introduce your little one to a sweet, sunny tune.

This week's activities include lots of opportunities to get creative with your child. Whether it's music, art, or dance, open ended and creative activities teach our youngest learners so much about the power of their bodies, different ways to express themselves, and the connection that comes from having fun with someone you love.



This Week's Theme:

What's the Weather?

What you'll find in this guide. . .

Summer is here, and we've got you covered with activities that will keep your little one learning and having fun all summer long! This guide contains activities for infants and toddlers, with suggestions on how to make the same activity fun and educational, whether you have a cuddly baby or a rambunctious toddler! Click on the icons below to discover more...

BUILDING FLEXIBLE BRAINS

I'm a Real Fan of Yours

Whether it's the rush of the wind or the relief brought by a fan on a hot day, the sensation of air moving is always fun for our little learners to explore!



BABY BOOK CLUB

A Winter's Tale

Longing for some cooler weather? Let the pages of a book carry you back to those long-ago snowy days!



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Ice, Ice, Baby

Beat the summer heat with this art project that's super cool—in more ways than one!



GET THE WHEELS TURNING

Name That Weather

What does a rainy day look like? A sunny day? A cold day? A windy day? Help your little one develop their weather-related vocabulary as you explore different types of weather together!



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

You Are My Sunshine

This sweet song might take you back to your own childhood, while letting your little one know just how much you love them!



At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

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Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

I'm a Real Fan of Yours:

- Paper (we recommend construction paper or cardstock but any type will work)
- [Instructions for folding a fan](#) (if you don't know how)
- Yarn or string (optional)
- Scissors (optional)

A Winter's Tale:

- Your favorite book about snow—we recommend *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats

Ice, Ice, Baby:

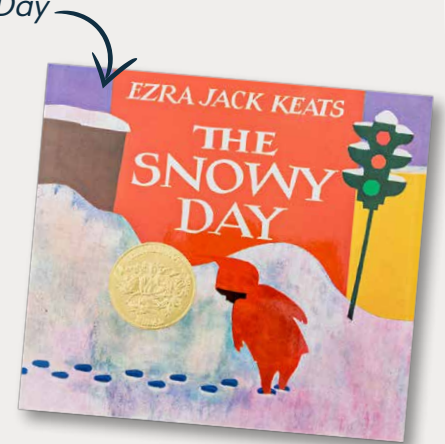
- Ice tray
- Food coloring
- Water
- White paper

Name That Weather:

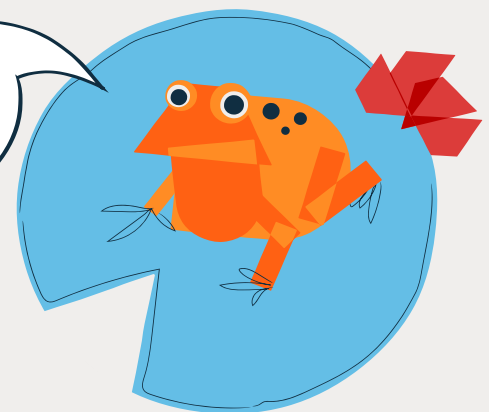
- [Pictures of different types of weather](#)

You Are My Sunshine:

- [Lyrics to "You Are My Sunshine"](#)



Tip: At the beginning of your week, gather materials and place them in a container so you're ready to go!



At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of July 20, 2020



Building Flexible Brains: I'm a Real Fan of Yours

Whether it's the rush of the wind or the relief brought by a fan on a hot day, the sensation of air moving is always fun for our little learners to explore!



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult: High**



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Paper (we recommend construction paper or cardstock but any type will work)
- [Instructions for folding a fan](#) (if you don't know how)
- Yarn or string (optional)
- Scissors (optional)

About the Activity:

Start by using the paper to fold a simple fan. If you don't know how, just follow [these easy steps!](#) You can make it as big or as small as you want, and your little one can help by coloring the paper before you fold it. Older infants and toddlers will watch with curiosity as you do the folding, and older toddlers can also help you with the creasing. Once your fan is made, it's time to experiment with wind!

For Your Infant: Show your baby the fan. Encourage them to touch it gently. Explain to your baby that sometimes when the weather is hot, we use a fan to cool down. Gently wave the fan at your baby, creating a breeze they can feel. Observe how they react to the breeze: Do they look surprised? Do they laugh? Do they want you to do it again? Continue to play with your baby and the fan for as long as you're both having fun! Together, you and your baby can experiment with how it feels when the fan waves fast and when it waves slowly. You can give your baby a turn with the fan as well. They may imitate the way you waved it...or they may scrunch it up, or even try to eat it, just to remind you that babies learn with all their senses!

For Your Toddler: Show your toddler the fan. Encourage them to touch it gently. Explain that sometimes when the weather is hot, we use a fan to cool down. Gently wave the fan at your toddler, creating a breeze they can feel. Observe how they react to the breeze: do they look surprised? Do they laugh? Do they want you to do it again? Continue to play with your child and the fan for as long as you're both having fun! Let them try fanning you, too. As you take turns, you can make another weather connection by pointing out that sometimes, the weather outside is windy, and that when it's cold outside, those breezes can make us feel cold.

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

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Baby Book Club: A Winter's Tale

Longing for some cooler weather? Let the pages of a book carry you back to those long-ago snowy days!



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Your favorite book about snow—we recommend *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats



About the Activity:

Read the book you selected with your little one. As you read, point out scenes that show snow, and emphasize any weather-related vocabulary, like cold, snow, snowflake, frozen, etc. Pay special attention to any words or illustration your child seems particularly interested in.

For Your Infant:

Read the book with your baby. Then, read it again, placing emphasis on any parts where you see snow, or objects that can be related to snow like snowflakes, sleds, snowmen, or mittens. Read the book as many times as your baby is interested, paying special attention to any words or pictures that capture their interest.

For Your Toddler:

Read the book with your toddler. Then, read it again, placing emphasis on any parts where you see snow, or objects that can be related to snow like snowflakes, sleds, snowmen, or mittens. Read the book as many times as your toddler is interested, paying special attention to any words or pictures that capture their interest. As you read, point out key elements, and ask if them to name it: "Look! What's falling from the sky? You're right – it's snow!" Your little one may not know the word for everything they see, and that's OK! Provide the word, and encourage them to say it back to you: "That's a sled! Can you say it, too? In the winter, we can use a sled to slide on the snow!"

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

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Creative Expression: Ice, Ice, Baby

Beat the summer heat with this art project that's super cool—in more ways than one!



Length of activity:
15–20 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: High



What you need:

- Ice tray
- Food coloring
- Water
- White paper

About the Activity:

Get creative about beating the heat with this cool activity! Prepare in advance by adding a few drops of food coloring to a half cup of water and pouring it into a few cubes in an ice tray. Repeat this process with as many colors as you want. Then put the ice tray in the freezer for a few hours. When the ice cubes are solid, you'll be ready to get creative! Be aware that food coloring can stain, so this might be a good time to strip down to the diaper and even head outdoors if it's warm out!

For Your Infant:

Find a comfortable place to play with your baby. This might be at a table with your baby in your lap, in their highchair, or sitting on the ground outdoors if the weather's nice. Place a sheet of paper in front of them and then show them the ice cubes you prepared. Talk with them about the different colors of the ice cubes and encourage them to explore them. Pay attention to how they respond to the ice cubes and make observations about what you see: "You look surprised! How does that feel? Is it cold? Brrr!" As your baby explores, choose an ice cube of your own and model how to use it to paint on the paper. If your baby seems interested in what you're doing, explore them to try it too! They may not be interested in using it to paint, and that's OK. Let them explore in a variety of ways, but as the ice cubes melt and shrink, be sure to replace them with a fresh ice cube to avoid choking hazards.

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of July 20, 2020

For Your Toddler:

Find a comfortable place to play with your toddler. This might be at a table with your toddler in your lap, or at a toddler-sized table, or sitting on the ground outdoors if the weather's nice. Place a sheet of paper in front of them and then show them the ice cubes you prepared. Talk with them about the different colors of the ice cubes and encourage them to explore them. Pay attention to how they respond to the ice cubes and make observations about what you see: "You look surprised! How does that feel? Is it cold? Brrr!" As your toddler explores, choose an ice cube of your own and model how to use it to paint on the paper. Encourage your toddler to try it too! Show them different ways to move it around the paper and model how to create different shapes and lines. Talk with them about the different colors they're using, drawing connections to other familiar objects: "You're painting with a green ice cube! It's a nice bright green, just like the grass in our yard!" They may not be interested in using it to paint, and that's OK. Let them explore in a variety of ways, but as the ice cubes melt and shrink, be sure to replace them with a fresh ice cube to avoid choking hazards.



At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of July 20, 2020



Get the Wheels Turning: Name That Weather

What does a rainy day look like? A sunny day? A cold day? A windy day? Help your little one develop their weather-related vocabulary as you explore different types of weather together!



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult: High**



Level of Prep Required: None



What you need:

- [Pictures of different types of weather](#)

About the Activity:

Find a comfortable space to work with your little one and show them the pictures of different types of weather. Point out the characteristics of weather that you notice as you look at the pictures together. For example, you might say something like, "Look at this picture! Do you see the snow? Snow is soft and white, and only falls when it's very cold! See how the snow covers the trees?" Pay special attention to anything that captures your child's interest.

For Your Infant:

For your infant, this will be a foundational activity. They'll hear you say new words and see pictures of things they may have never seen before, like snow or lightning. They might not know quite what you mean when you tell them that these are different types of weather, but by talking with your baby about the pictures of weather, you're laying the foundation upon which they will begin to build and grow their knowledge of the world.

For Your Toddler:

For your toddler, this activity will help them connect weather-related vocabulary with images. They'll hear you say new words and see pictures of things they may have never seen before, like snow or lightning. Point to each picture and identify what type of weather it shows. Encourage them to try and say words like sun, or clouds. Talk with your child about each type of weather, offering simple facts like, "Snow is cold!" or "The clouds are fluffy and white."

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of July 20, 2020

Weather



rain



lightning



snow



sunny



cloudy



windy

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of July 20, 2020



Creative Expression: You Are My Sunshine

This sweet song might take you back to your own childhood, while letting your little one know just how much you love them!



Length of activity:
10 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: None



What you need:

- Lyrics to "You Are My Sunshine" (below)

About the Activity: With your child in your lap facing you, sing "You Are My Sunshine." If your child enjoyed it, sing the song again. This time as you sing, you can sway back and forth, dance, or make up hand gestures to go along with the words.

"You Are My Sunshine"

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
You make me happy when skies are gray.
You'll never know dear, how much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.

For Your Infant: Your facial, vocal, and body cues will interest your baby as much as the song itself. As you sing, make eye contact with them, smile, and move your body to the music. Your baby will learn so much from watching you: your animated expression, smiles, and eye contact will teach your baby that you're emotionally present and connected with them. The words of the song will reinforce familiar vocabulary and introduce new words as well. Moving your body to the rhythm will help your baby learn to do the same. As you sing this song with them, you may notice them vocalizing or moving their bodies along with you. If you notice this, let them know you see them singing and dancing, and that you think they're wonderful!

For Your Toddler: Your facial, vocal, and body cues will interest your toddler as much as the song itself. As you sing, make eye contact with them, smile, and move your body to the music. Your toddler will learn so much from watching you: your animated expression, smiles, and eye contact will teach them that you're emotionally present and connected with them. The words of the song will reinforce familiar vocabulary and introduce new words as well. Moving your body to the rhythm will help your toddler learn to do the same. As you sing this song with them, you may notice them vocalizing or moving their bodies along with you. If you notice this, let them know you see them singing and dancing, and that you think they're wonderful! Encourage them to move their bodies in interesting ways. If they love to sing and dance, pull out some flowy scarves or musical instruments and let their creativity take over!