



The Kindergarten Chronicles

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Sensational Seasons and Wonderful Weather

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Young children love the seasons and accompanying weather changes. In kindergarten, our science CEF addresses seasons and weather: "Observe, describe, and record seasonal changes (K.3.2)" and "Observe patterns in nature (leaves, feathers, night, day, weather conditions (K.1.3)." This is a great springboard for connecting literacy to science.

You can begin with a terrific nonfiction book about the seasons, such as *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons or *Our Seasons* by Grace Lin and Ranida T. McKneally. There are many more wonderful nonfiction books



about seasons and weather, and fictional books that include seasons can even be incorporated into your instruction. Before you read, you may want to access and record your students' prior knowledge about seasons by making a circle map. After reading each book you choose, be sure to record the new knowledge your students have gained.

A fun way to incorporate math into your instruction is to make a graph recording each child's favorite season. You probably already discuss each day's weather in your opening activities. You can add another math activity to this by graphing the weather each day for a month. Discuss which weather conditions you've seen the most several times throughout

the month, so your students become comfortable reading graphs. Also pose such questions as: "How many more days has it been sunny than cloudy?" and "Have we had more rainy days or windy days in November?" You can use this activity to teach your students how to compare information on graphs. (Listen to and identify the purpose of and gain information from text, features: graphs and charts, with assistance. ELA 4.K.1).



These activities can provide a full year of science/math/literacy connections. Have fun going through the seasons with your young learners!



Bill Hanlon, Director



Writing Connection



A great way to begin to teach your students about scientific observations is to make a Weather Journal. Each day your students can write the date and draw and/or write their observations about the weather. They may even add an activity that can be done in that type of weather. Example: "November 2, 2009. Today it is sunny and cool outside. I am going to play soccer."

Make sure they add appropriate details specific to the weather, such as a sweater or a long-sleeved shirt for cool weather.

To help your students make their own observations about the weather, ask them, "What do you see outside?" (clouds, rain, sun) and "What do you feel when you're outside?" (hot, warm, cool, cold). This helps them learn how to

put their observations into concise sentences. Once they have recorded these observations for a month, you can have them compare their observations to the weather graph you have in your classroom. You may even have them make some predictions about the coming month's weather (Draw and communicate ideas in written form daily 5.K.2).

You can also make a class

book, with each child creating a page using a sentence frame: _____'s favorite season is _____! Students can then illustrate their page. (This will also give them more practice writing their name!) Put all the pages together with a colorful cover, and add it to your classroom library. The children LOVE to read their own and their classmates' writing.