Opening the Gift

Blow, Wind, Blow

March 2018

Wind by Carol Thompson
We Like Kites by the Berenstains
Whose Hat Is it? by Valeri Gorbachev
Like A Windy Day by Frank Asch & Devin Asch
When the Wind Blows by Linda Booth Sweeney
Mouse’s First Spring by Lauren Thompson
Windblown by Édouard Manceau
Wind by Alice K. Flanagan

Nursery Rhyme: Rock-a-bye, Baby

CD: “Shake, Rattle and Roll” from Beanbag Rock and Roll by Georgiana Stewart

Songs & Fingerplays to Share

Whistling Wind
(tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)
If you hear the whistling wind, cover your ears.
If you hear the whistling wind, cover your ears.
If you hear it in the trees,
Making music with the leaves,
If you hear the whistling wind, cover your ears.
If you feel the blustery wind, whirl around.
If you feel the blustery wind, whirl around.
If you feel it lift your hair,
Like a kite up in the air,
If you feel the blustery wind, whirl around.

Winds of March
(wave arms like the wind)
Winds of March, we welcome you,
There is work for you to do.
Work and play and blow all day,
Blow the winter cold away.

Kite Dancing!
Use scarves or diamond shape cutouts for kites
(tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)
Watch my kite dance in the sky.
(slowly raise kite)
There it goes. There it flies,
Swirling left and swirling right.
(swoop kite to the left and right)
Dance, my little kite.
(move kite all around)
Watch my kite soar in the breeze
(swoop kite around)
Over roofs, over trees,
(swoop kite above head)
Round and round and up and down.
(move kite in circles and up and down)
Land it on the ground.
(gently land kite)

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This Little Wind
(count on fingers)
This little wind blows rain
This little wind drifts snow
This little wind brings sunshine
This little wind whistles low
And this little wind
Rocks the baby birds to and fro.

This Little Wind
(arms in “sleep” position)

Your next visit will be: April ______
Next month’s theme will be: “Dino Stomp”
Road to Reading Tip:
**Clap, Pat, Stomp and Walk**: Youngsters feel the beat of a piece of music in different ways with this easy idea! Play a musical recording and encourage your little ones to clap to the beat. Next, have them tap their legs to the beat. Encourage the children to stand. Then have them stomp to the beat. Finally, have children walk in a circle to the beat. This activity helps children develop their listening skills while developing large and small motor skills, plus hearing a rhythm is an important part of early literacy. adapted from The Mailbox Magazine, Preschool edition

More Books to Share:
- *I Face the Wind* by Vicki Cobb
- *When the Wind Blew* by Petra Brown
- *When the Wind Blew* by Alison Jackson
- *Can You See the Wind?* by Allan Fowler
- *Gilberto and the Wind* by Marie Hall Ets
- *Air is All Around You* by Franklyn M. Branley
- *Kite Day: A Bear and Mole Story* by Will Hillenbrand

Activity Ideas:
**Can the Wind Move It?**: Place a variety of objects in the science center: some that will move when blown and some that will not move. Examples: wooden block, paper cup, metal spoon, piece of construction paper, craft pom pom, feather, rock. Make a sign for the center that says: "Can the wind move it? Can you blow it?" When children go to the science center, they will make a prediction and test each object to see which will move and which will not move when they blow on the object. Children blow to simulate the wind.

**Kite Tail Counts**: On a piece of white paper, use a black marker to draw five diamond kite shapes, each with a tail. Number the kites from 1—5. Make a copy for each of your children. Have them name the numeral on each kite and use crayons or markers to draw a matching number of bows on the kite's tail. When they have finished, let them decorate their kites any way they wish.

Book of the Month:
*Baby Steps to STEM: Infant and Toddler Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Activities* by Jean G. Barbre, EdD PTC 372.35 B

Innately curious, infants and toddlers love to explore, investigate, and discover—making the earliest years a perfect time to begin teaching the foundations of STEM. This book defines what science, technology, engineering, and math education looks like for this age group, and why it is so vital for children to develop STEM knowledge. Expand your understanding of STEM to lay the foundation for children to develop skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. This book supplies fifty play-based developmentally appropriate activities for introducing STEM. All activities include extensions, inquiry questions, and tips on how to help parents strengthen children’s learning at home.