

BLOWING IN THE WIND

Windy days can help us cool down during the heat of summer. A light breeze can feel very pleasant as we work or play outdoors, making wind chimes ring and colorful mobiles twirl. Do you know what makes the wind blow? How can you observe the wind when you can't see it?

"Wind is the movement of air near Earth's surface. Wind can be a gentle breeze or a strong gale. The most powerful wind happens during storms called tornadoes, cyclones, and hurricanes. Changes in the temperature of air, land, and water cause wind. When air flows over a warm surface, it heats up and rises. This leaves room for cooler air to flow in. The flowing air is wind." from *Britannica Kids*, <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/wind/399645>

Here are the supplies you will need test how well a few simple objects can float on the wind:

- A fan
- Feathers
- Paper scraps of different sizes, shapes and weights (printer or notebook paper, strips from magazines, newspapers, junk mail all work well)
- Fabric scraps of different sizes, shapes and weights
- Other small items of your choice

Have an adult help you set up the fan so that it's blowing above the surface of the floor. Make predictions of which objects will float on the wind and which will not. Toss one of your selected objects in front of the fan and see if your predictions were correct. Which objects floated? Which ones did not? Make a simple chart or sketches to record your findings.

- ☺ Get physical and creative by acting out what it would feel like and look like and sound like to be a feather floating and fluttering in the wind.
- ☺ Put some music on and dance like the wind!
- ☺ Grab some markers, colored pencils, crayons, paint or other artistic supplies and draw yourself, your friends and family floating on the breeze.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/wind/>

<https://www.eia.gov/kids/energy-sources/wind/>

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/treehouse/airpressure.cfm?Slide=6>

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/weather/m-pinwheel.htm>