

# Watching for Wind

**Activity:** Children will create windsocks and use them to monitor wind.



## Objective

Children will use simple tools to track the movement of wind.

## Targeted Standards

### VI. Scientific Inquiry

**VI.A.2** Uses tools in scientific inquiry

**Benchmark a.** Uses tools and various technologies to support exploration and inquiry

[http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/standards.html#d=VI&a=four\\_year\\_olds](http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/standards.html#d=VI&a=four_year_olds)

## Scaffolding

Some children may have difficulty threading ribbon through the holes on the windsock. Tape may be added to the end of the ribbon to make it sturdy and easier to push through a small hole. Other children may, instead, choose to tape streamers along the bottom of the windsock.

## Extensions

- Place wind chimes outside, near an open window and encourage the children to listen for them. Is the wind blowing? How can they tell?
- Bring in a kite, on a windy day, and invite the children to take turns flying it.
- Place pinwheels in the ground and encourage the children to notice when the wind blows.
- Read and discuss books about wind. Some suggestions are:
  - *Like a Windy Day*, by Frank Asch
  - *The Wind Blew*, by Pat Hutchins
  - *Wind*, by Carol Thompson
  - *The Windy Day*, by Anna Milbourne

## Materials Needed

Construction paper  
Washable markers  
Curly ribbon, crepe paper streamers  
Hole punch  
Yarn  
Stapler or tape  
A windsock  
Optional: Clothesline and clothespins

## Checking for Understanding

Children will demonstrate their understanding of the lesson by creating a windsock and using it to determine when the wind is moving.

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## Procedures

1. Read an age appropriate book about wind and introduce related words such as: breeze, gust, windy, and blustery.
2. Ask the children to brainstorm ways they can determine if the wind is blowing.
3. Show them the windsock and invite them to make their own. Ask them to decorate a piece of construction paper with “windy pictures,” patterns, or designs. Tape or staple the paper into a tube. Children may choose to attach crepe paper streamers to the bottom of the tube with tape or punch holes along the bottom and thread long lengths of curly ribbon through them. Punch two holes in the top and add a yarn “handle” for hanging.
4. Take the children outside and encourage them to find places to hang their windsocks. You may choose to use a clothesline and clothespins to display their finished products.
5. Invite the children to observe the windsocks and determine when the wind is blowing. Is a gust of wind moving the windsocks or just a breeze? How can they tell?
6. Take down the windsocks at the end of the day and encourage the children to take them home and observe the wind with their families.