

STEM

starts now

Fantastic Winds

Recommended Age: 36–41 Months

STEM concepts: Science (physical science, scientific method), Technology (tools and their uses), Math (counting)

Materials: a fan, paper, objects around the house that are light (such as a small empty cardboard box or a paper plate), objects around the house that are heavy (such as pots, books, etc)

What to do: Set up the fan at the end of your table. Make sure that a majority of the wind is blowing onto the table. Have your child hold a paper plate in her hands to see how light or heavy it is. Then, have her place it in front of the fan. Does it get blown to the end of the table? Or does it stay still? Repeat this short exercise with various objects, alternating between heavy and light things. Count how many things move and how many things stay still. Compare the numbers. Which is greater?

Language and Communication: When your child picks up different objects, draw his attention to the weight of them by asking “Is that heavy?” or “Is that light?”. This will help him draw connections between wind and how it affects an object that is heavy or light. Ask questions like “What do you think will happen when there is wind?” or “Will this stay still or be moved by the wind?” to encourage your child to make guesses. A key part of the scientific method is to make educated guesses, or hypotheses, so this is an easy way to introduce the concept!

Expand the Activity: Pick a unit of measurement and measure how far things move! An example of this is measuring how many pencils an object flew. Lay out pencils from the starting point to where the object moved. Count how many pencils you needed to measure the distance. This is an excellent way to introduce the concept of measuring to your child.

