

# Weather

spin it fast for several seconds. Open it up to see how it looks. Add more drops of paint if desired.

5. Invite the children to chant while spinning:

*Round and round and round it goes,*

*Where it stops, no one knows.*

*Twister, twister in a pot,*

*Let's open it up and see what we've got!*

the case, punch a hole through the center of each plate with pencil.)

4. Using the water droppers, children "dot" paint all over the plate. Place the lid on top, and have them

## More to do

**Art:** Place a paper plate with a hole in the center onto an old phonograph. Turn it so that the plate rotates around. Hold a marker, pressing lightly, onto the paper plate to make "swirlies" like a tornado. Demonstrate how you can move your hand just a little bit and the "swirlies" change size.

**Field trip:** Call the local news station and ask if a meteorologist would be able to show the class the machines and tools used to predict the weather.

**Sand and water table:** Put water and funnels in the water table. Show the children how water drains from the funnel in a circular motion by placing a small leaf on top. The leaf will rotate as the water drains out the bottom.

Valerie Chellew, Marshfield, WI

## Umbrella Day

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### Science skills

Observation skills are reinforced in this rainy day activity.

### Materials

Umbrellas

Small paper drink umbrellas

### What to do

1. Send home a note asking that each child bring in an umbrella on the next rainy day.
2. Take a walk on a rainy day. Listen to the sounds of the rain on the umbrellas. Point out all the different colors and styles of umbrellas that children bring in.
3. To celebrate the day, hand out small paper drink umbrellas (can be purchased at party stores). If the tips are sharp, break them off first.

### More to do

**Art:** Children can wet paper shaped like an umbrella and paint it with watercolors. Add tissue paper raindrop shapes.

**Math:** Graph the colors of umbrellas that come to school.

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## Related books

*Big Sarah's Little Boots* by Paulette Bourgeoi

*Mushroom in the Rain* by Mirra Ginsburg

*Umbrella* by Taro Yashima

*The Yellow Umbrella* by Caitlin Dundon

■ Laura Durbrow, Lake Oswego, OR

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## We Can Catch Raindrops!

### Science skills

*This art project encourages the children's curiosity about rain and develops both fine and large motor development.*

### Materials

White paper

Tissue paper, assorted colors

Paper clips

### What to do

1. Tell the children they are going to make raindrop catchers.
2. Give each child one sheet of white paper and one sheet of colored tissue paper the same size. Have the children place the tissue paper on top of the white paper. Secure it with four paper clips, one on each side.
3. The next time there is a sprinkle of rain (not a downpour!), have the children take their rain catchers outside and catch some raindrops on their papers. Only a few raindrops are needed; papers should not get soaked.
4. Then, lay them out in your room to dry. Remove the clips and tissue paper. Pretty drops of color should appear on the white paper as the color leaches through.

■ Jodi Sykes, Lake Worth, FL

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## I Am a Meteorologist

### Science skills

*The children learn about meteorology.*

### Materials

Large map of the world

Markers

Meteorologist's stick, optional

Small pieces of paper

Tape or putty for mounting