

Connecting With Your Child

Living In The Water Cycle

To help your child learn more about the water cycle and the Sun, experience it together in nature. Take your child outside with a digital camera or other device that can take pictures. Have your child take a wide variety of pictures from nature that are related to the water cycle. Suggestions include puddles, streams, the ocean, clouds, raindrops, snow banks, sunlight, and the sky.

Encourage your child to be creative and to take pictures of unique examples of the water cycle such as soil, leaves, small animals, ice cubes, and people. If possible, have your child take multiple pictures of the same type of object to form a collage that exemplifies the variety found in nature. You can also have your child find examples of the water cycle inside the home. Suggestions include a steamy mirror, a glass of water, or a pot of boiling water. (Take precautions when children are around hot objects).

After returning home, print out the pictures. Gather posterboard, glue or tape, and some markers. Using the pictures, have your child create a personal poster of the water cycle for your own backyard. Arrange the pictures according to the different stages of the water cycle that they represent.

For example, all the cloud pictures could represent condensation. Use the markers to label and describe the parts of the water cycle. Then, have your child present the project to other family members, explaining what he or she learned about the Sun and the water cycle.

Here are some questions to discuss with your child:

- How do you interact with the water cycle every day?
- How does the amount of sunlight affect the water cycle? Does more evaporation take place at night or during the day? Why?
- How does air temperature affect the precipitation stage of the water cycle?