



It's Raining – what can we do?

Six fun ideas for playing in the rain and learning about stormwater with young children

1. Catch raindrops.

Catch raindrops on your tongue. Put a cup out in the rain to see how much it fills up. Let everyone make a mark on the cup to guess how much rain will be collected by the time the rain stops, or let them guess how much will be collected by the end of the week? or month?

- *Reinforce where all that rain goes – down the storm drain and to a pond, stream, river or lake.*

2. Look for worms.

Kids love worms and they're harmless creatures to explore. Let them hold them and watch them move. Explain how important worms are for bird food and the soil.

- *Reinforce the food web and importance of bugs and worms for bigger animals.*

3. Play in Puddles.

Don't just jump in the puddles -- skip, hop, run, gallop, walk, and more through them! Who can make the biggest splash? Who can jump over the biggest puddles?

- *Reinforce fun!*

4. Pretend.

What animals live in water? What animals need to live near it? Play charades in the rain. Have kids pretend to be an animal that needs water and guess which one they are pretending to be.

- *Reinforce how important water is for all animals.*

5. Go on a Scavenger Hunt.

Rain changes everything and can be a great time for kids to observe what happens when it rains. Create a scavenger hunt or let the kids create it. Have them find downspouts, storm drains, puddles, the best trees to hide from the rain, "streams" in the streets.

- *Reinforce that stormwater is created when rain can't absorb into the ground.*

6. Sing in the Rain.

Teach kids a classic rain song - Singing in the Rain by Gene Kelly. *"I'm singin' in the rain. Just singin' in the rain, What a glorious feeling, and I'm happy again. I'm laughing at clouds, so dark, up above. The sun's in my heart and I'm ready for love."*

- *Reinforce fun!*

7. Build a rain barrel.

A rain barrel is a container that collects rain water from rooftops (this is called stormwater runoff). Rain barrels come in several different shapes and sizes, but they all do the same thing: they save water and decrease stormwater runoff