



# WORM WEATHER

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's exploration during this literacy activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



Did you know reading books is a great opportunity to support STEM learning?

*Worm Weather* is a book written by Jean Taft and illustrated by Matt Hunt.

*Worm Weather* uses simple rhyming words and colorful pictures to talk about the sounds and sights before, during, and after a thunderstorm.

- If you do not have a paper copy of this book, watch a YouTube video of someone reading the book. If you prefer to read it to your child yourself, just mute the audio.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkQVWqX\\_Dak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkQVWqX_Dak)

- This book is accessible for individuals with reading disabilities through **Bookshare**.
- Check your local library to see if it allows you to borrow a digital version of this book to read on a laptop, tablet, or phone.



# WORM WEATHER BOOKMARK

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- Print this page and cut around the edges.
- **Do not forget to PEER!** Use additional Prompts if needed, Evaluate and Expand your child's answers, and Repeat the prompts.
- Look at STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process and on the following pages:  
<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-book-adaptations>
- If you print this page, you can download or view online by scanning the QR code below.



## Expanding | Science

### WORM WEATHER

By Jean Taft

**C**

Complete a sentence

**Splish, splash. Sidewalk \_\_\_\_\_ (dash)!**

**R**

Recall

**"Why did the family go to a pizza place?" (It was storming outside.)**

**O**

Open-ended questions

**"What happens to the ground when it rains a lot?"**

**W**

WH questions

**"What do boots jump over?" (old tree stump)**

**D**

Distancing questions

**"What do you do when it storms?"**

## STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Worm
- Puddle
- Mud
- Drizzle
- Cloud
- Thunder
- Sun
- Rainbow



[stemie.fpg.unc.edu](https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu)



# WORM WEATHER ADAPTATIONS

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## SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/DEAF-BLINDNESS/MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

### STORYBOX

Select corresponding items and place them in a container/box. Items may include:

- Rain clothing items
- Clean empty pizza box
- Rain stick
- Short strings or yarn (for worms)



Image credit: Microsoft Stock

### This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges



*Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.*



*Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.*



*Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.*



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## SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

### PICTURES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS, AND/OR ICONS

- Select pictures that correspond to items/objects/animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning



Image Credit: STEMIE

### This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children' learning
- Support children who are deaf/with hearing impairment



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VISUAL CUES:  
USE TO PROMPT

## HOW TO:

**Step 1:** Print and cut out the images. You can also create your own visual cues (empty squares included).

**Step 2:** As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.



Worm



Weather



Rain



Puddle



Clouds



Thunder



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Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



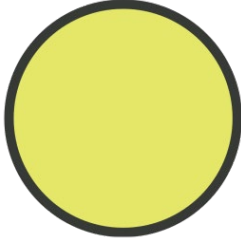
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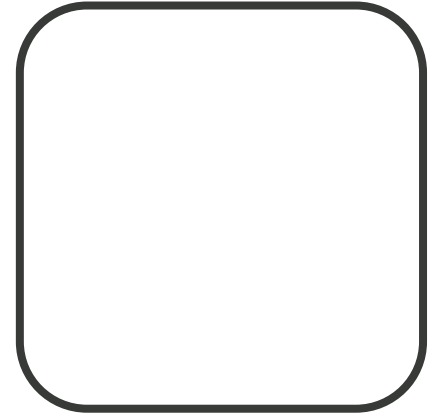
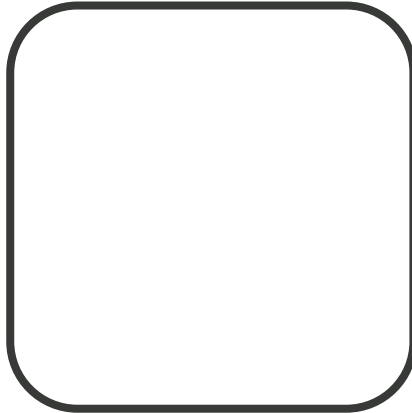
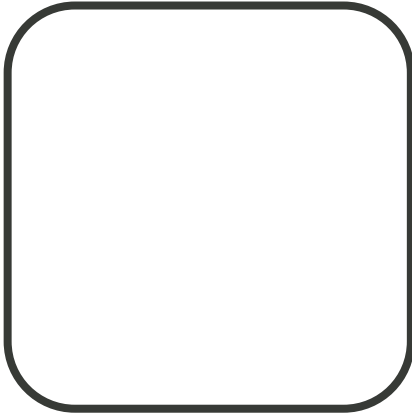
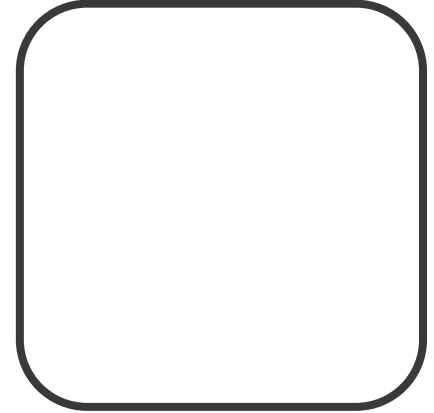
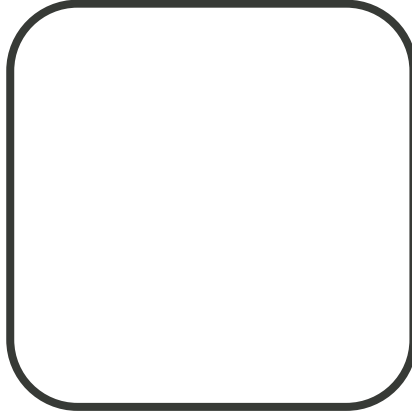
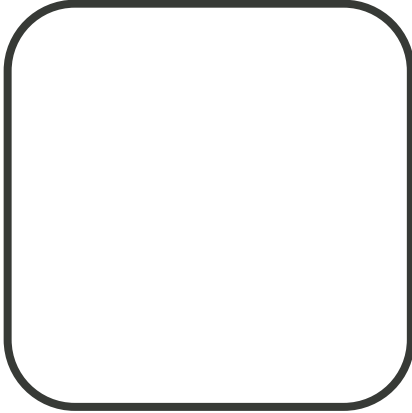
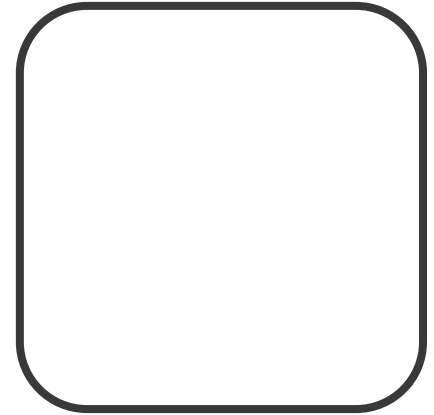
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Sun



Rainbow



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# WORM WEATHER EXPLORATION I

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## Nature Noticer

**Description:** Help your child **observe and investigate the weather**, with their **senses**. Talk about **what to wear for the weather**.

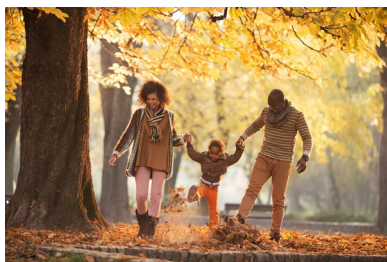
### What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences and develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Go to the window together and point out what the **weather** is like. Talk about what **clothing items to wear** when going outside for a walk or stroller ride.

Go on a walk/stroll in nature and point out things you and your child are seeing, hearing, and/or smelling, such as the **sun shining, water dripping after a rain, trees swaying in the wind, and fragrant flowers**. Say, **"I feel the wind blowing across my skin."** **"The sunshine feels so warm."**

**Compare and contrast types of weather (sunny vs cloudy, sunny vs rainy).**





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## EXPLORATION II

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### Rain Maker

**Description:** Help your child **experiment, observe, and recognize how rain occurs**. Talk about how rain is water that falls from clouds.

#### What My Child Is Learning!

Children learn best by interacting with people and objects. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to make connections between words and real-life experiences and develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

There are a couple different ways you can show how rain occurs, some more interactive than others.

- Encourage your child to use a pipette to drop water. Consider tinting the water with a blue dye or runny blue paint. Drop onto black paper for a dark night or **stormy day** or onto drop on green paper for grass on a spring day.
- Add a large cotton ball to a clear bottle, provide a pipette to soak the cotton ball with water to create **rain**. Encourage your child to **count** out loud how drops it takes for the cotton ball (**cloud**) to drip (**rain**).
- Provide a clear bowl full of clear water with non-toxic shaving cream (**cloud**) on floating on top. Provide a pipette filled with blue tinted water and drop onto the shaving cream. Encourage your child to watch it drip down like **rain** into the clear water below
- To create a cloud in a jar, set ice on top of a closed clear jar.





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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

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- Match pictures of children in different outfits or nature with different types of weather
- Observe changes in and compare/contrast weather during a week
- Get dressed appropriately and splash and play in the rain, or to play outside
- Use a rain gauge and graph observations
- Create a weather journal and add drawings and observations
- Play with a weather doll. Pretend certain weather is occurring and have your child dress a favorite doll or stuffed animal for the weather. Be sure to act out the doll as they go "out" in the weather as well.
- Play **weather predictor**. When it's very cloudy and gray, explore with your child what might happen. Ask you child if they think it will rain and why or why not. Then record what actually happened.

