

Objectives

- To recap on shadow length and the position of the Sun in the sky.
- To choose the correct weather symbols to portray particular weather conditions.
- To correctly identify that there are more hours of daylight in the summer.
- To demonstrate their understanding of Sun safety.

Resources

Lengths of string and photographs from week 5, lesson 1 and autumn 1, week 2, lesson 1; the completed weather chart from this term; photocopiable page 'Spring and summer weather' from the CD-ROM; plain paper

Working scientifically

- To make comparisons.

Weather and day length

Revise

- Remind the children of their observations on shadows made earlier in this topic and in the autumn term. Show them the photographs you took to record how their shadows changed in size and direction over the course of a school day and the length of string showing each set of measurements. Point out the longest and shortest string lengths on each occasion and encourage the children to link these with the position of the Sun in the sky. Make comparisons between the string lengths in autumn and summer and talk about why the summer ones are shorter. Remind the children of the work they did for Teddy: finding him a shady place and making observations about why it is no longer dark at bedtime.
- Display the weather chart the class has completed and talk about how the temperature has been changing since earlier in the year. Recap other types of weather you have focused on this term, including cloud formation and rainbows, and talk about staying safe in the Sun. Point out the weather symbols that have been used to record the children's observations and check they can identify which ones signify temperature, rainfall, cloud cover and wind speed and direction. Challenge the children to tell you the colours of the rainbow in the order they occur and explain what the 'Slip! Slop! Slap!' message means.

Assess

- Give each child the photocopiable page 'Spring and summer weather' from the CD-ROM. Tell them to look carefully at the pictures and the weather symbols at the bottom of the page. For each image, they will need to think about how warm it looks, whether it is sunny or raining and how hard the wind might be blowing. They will then need to choose the correct weather symbols to match what is happening in the picture.
- Provide children with a plain sheet of paper and tell them to draw the view from their bedroom window at bedtime in summer. Check that they have sketched a daylight scene.
- Give the children further sheets of plain paper and ask them to make a poster to advise other children on how to stay safe in the Sun.

Further practice

- Support children by giving them weather symbol templates to cut and stick onto an enlarged photocopiable sheet. Talk to the children about bedtime in summer and what they notice about daylight at this time of year. Provide old holiday brochures or magazines for children to cut and paste appropriate images from.
- Challenge children to shade in the colours of the rainbow in the correct order on the photocopiable sheet. Ask them to write a sentence suggesting something that would help them get to sleep more easily in summer, such as thicker curtains. Encourage the children to add as much detail to their poster as they can, including wearing a t-shirt, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen; staying out of the Sun in the middle of the day; and topping up with sunscreen when they have been in the water.