

Children and Weather

by KI5LNM

Since there is a weather class on Saturday, I thought I would share some of my experience over the last 8 months with 2 year olds and weather. I work at a Mother's Day Out two days a week with 2 year olds. I love 2 year olds and have a lot of fun with them. One of our activities each day, is to look out the door and using our weather cards decide what is happening out there. With discussions on if you can't see the sun then it is cloudy, when the air is moving it is windy though we can't see it but can see it move the leaves on the trees, if your not getting wet - it isn't raining, and other descriptions.

Back at the beginning of the school year we made a tent in our room. When one of the girls got in, a corner of the tent came down, I immediately said, "Oh, a tornado just came by and tore the house. It's a good thing we have insurance. We can get it fixed right away." So something so quick and said without thinking has hung around the whole year. My kiddos immediately wanted to know what a tomato was. Now, they couldn't get that set of sounds to work together with their tongues so it became "tomatoes". Yes, you are likely at this point to hear me say tomato when I'm talking about tornadoes. So I pulled out my phone and we got up some of my favorite "tomato" videos, and we watched them and talked about "tomatoes". It was quite fun to talk about how dangerous they can be, but if we are smart we can get in a safe place. This then entailed what can be a safe place discussion.

Now these conversations have continued the whole year. One little fellow decided he was dying one day (he just up and decided he was sick) so we ran all over the building carrying him looking for a doctor. All at once someone yelled, A "Tomato" is coming. So we all got into this tight area and sat awhile. We talked about being in small areas inside a building where there were no windows. And many of the ways to stay safe. A couple would keep looking out to see if the "tomato" had gone away. It finally did so we headed back to the room. By the way we meet another teach and quietly I asked her to play doctor and come tell E. that he was going to live. She did a great job at that and our normal day finally got back on track - though admittedly the non-normal was a lot of fun.

We have also talked about thunder and lightening and needing to stay inside. It can be dangerous to be outside with lightening. So we need to stay inside so the lightening doesn't get us. Since these conversations, I have had two year olds come back to class and tell me about going to a safe space in there homes.

I know some believe you shouldn't talk about such with the quite young. My opinion is that there is never a time too young to make them away of surroundings and the weather. Let them know that weather can be a powerful force, but if we are wise and careful we can be safe. I don't think it helps them to have a major event happen and they not know what is going on. Only that they are scared. We need to start when children are young to train and teach them in fun ways. Then when things go crazy, it is not a bolt out of the blue that they have idea about and scars them. But they have an inkling of hearing of such things and may even remember how to be safe.

Maybe even then as they get older they will become more interested in other aspects and even turn to amateur radio and want to join a group at some time as they learned young that you don't have to sit and worry and but you can be safe and active. And what are all the ways to be active and help.