

## March



March's theme is *Rain*. Try these fun activities to explore weather, both inside and outside:

### Talk Together

- **For your baby:** Sing songs like *Rain, Rain Go Away* and *Itsy Bitsy Spider* with your baby. Try using hand gesture while you sing *Itsy Bitsy Spider*—your baby loves to watch you entertain her! Watch your baby—after she sees you do the gestures several times, she may try to copy you!
- **For your toddler:** Sing songs like *Rain, Rain Go Away* and *Itsy Bitsy Spider* together. Teach your child the gestures that go with *Itsy Bitsy Spider*. Talk about different rain words: puddles, rain boots and raincoats, umbrellas, pouring, sprinkling, misting, fog, wind, and clouds. Look outside: How many of these words do you see outside your window?

### Read Together

- Read some rainy day books together. For babies, try *Rain Feet* by Angela Johnson or *Gossie and Gertie* by Olivia Dunrea, featuring Gossie the duck who loves her red galoshes. For older toddlers, good choices include *The Little Cloud* by Eric Carle, *Rain or Shine*:

*All About Weather* by Danielle Denega and the ultimate rainy day fantasy, *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss.

## Play Together

- **For your baby:** Play with “rain” inside. In the bathtub, you can pour water out of a plastic pitcher to make rain. Does your baby prefer the water to come out slowly or quickly? Does she try to grab the stream of water? Try pouring water through a strainer and watch it sprinkle out. You can also pour water onto a plastic plate and let it splash every which way. Blow bubbles while your child is in the bathtub and sing *Rain, Rain Go Away* as the bubble “raindrops” float over her head.
- **For your toddler:** Make a weather chart. Every morning look outside the window with your toddler: “What do you see? Is it rainy, cloudy, or sunny?” Draw a sun, clouds, or raindrops on a piece of paper with the appropriate word underneath. Let your toddler help by coloring and drawing with you. Post each day’s forecast and talk about the week’s weather on Friday. Can your child remember the words for each type of weather? A variation on this activity is to let your older toddler draw the weather him/herself. You could also trace symbols of each kind of weather—a sun, an umbrella, a cloud—onto paper and let your older toddler cut out the shape and then glue it to her weather chart.
- **For older toddlers:** Go for a rain walk. Bundle up in raincoat and rainboots; put a rain shield over the stroller. Open the umbrellas. Go out in the rain (but not when it’s thunder-and-lightning out). What do you see? Raindrops on leaves? Worms? Puddles? Don’t worry if your toddler gets wet while he’s exploring; have some dry clothes and a towel right inside the door so he can warm up and talk all about what you’ve just seen.