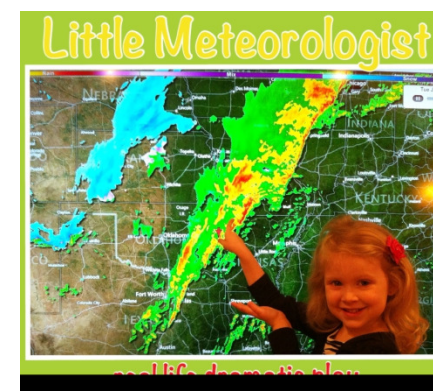


Young Meteorologist



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Rationale

During our recycling investigation, the children showed an interest in rain water and how they could reuse it. They anticipated looking at amounts of rain and how to measure it. Therefore allowing them to study the weather and meteorology seemed to be the next logical investigation. Studying meteorology and what meteorologists use to measure temperature, rain, air pressure and humidity was the focus of the investigation.

Which Way the Wind Blows



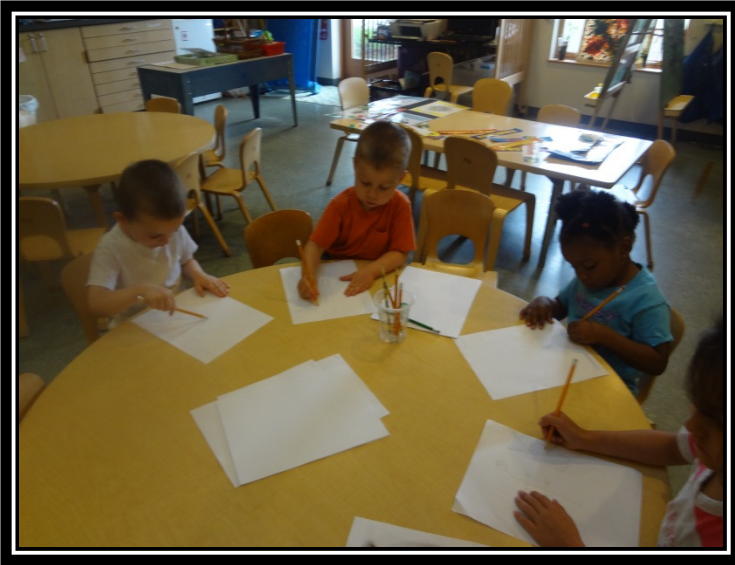
As an introduction to meteorology, the children were given the opportunity to explore the power and direction of wind using bubbles and streamers. The children used a compass to further their understanding of direction and how meteorologists use this information.

Direction Words

Information from a previous experience was used to reinforce their understanding of direction. Language and literacy skills were applied to assist in recognition of upper and lower case letters. The children were given the opportunity to write direction words: north, south, east and west which are meaningful to the experience.



What is a Meteorologist?



The question was posed to the children “What is a meteorologist?” An understanding of the children’s prior knowledge was gained through discussing and drawing pictures of what they thought a meteorologist is.

Next the class conducted research by watching an actual meteorologist’s broadcast and weather forecast for the day and the week. A connection was made between the “breezy “ report and the wind experience the children had outdoors.



What is a Meteorologist?

Pre - Investigation

A horse

A dog

Dig up holes

Mommy and daddy

Weather people

Owls

Grease stuff

A book

Check weather and tell people what is coming

Playing with toys

Point direction when the wind blows

Pokes people

Blow flags and windmills

They look like bugs

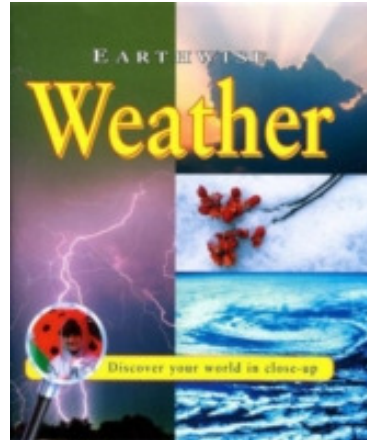
Reads stuff

A doctor

Finds bones

When you blow the wind

Pine Cones



The teacher showed the children an interesting way to predict weather by looking at pine cones. They found through informational text that pine cones close up when it is going to rain.



Jet Team 20

Weather Station

It was decided that the Jet classroom needed a weather station. The children brainstormed and conducted research about what their weather station needed. Looking at books, writing lists and watching Channel 2 weather reports gave the children many ideas. The children also came up with the name Jet Team 20 during the brainstorming session.



Why Maps?

Meteorologist use maps while broadcasting and reporting. The children wanted to create maps for their weather station so they could report the weather accurately for our area. The class explored a variety of maps then focused on the types of maps the meteorologist used which happened to be Ohio counties. The class created and included the counties on their map too.



Broadcasting Expert Visit

After watching many weather reports, the children were ready to be a meteorologists. Leanna, Sadie's sister, came in as our expert and talked to the children about how to operate the camera. She helped each child with the iPad. Leanna showed the children how to hold the iPad correctly to make sure the meteorologist was in the frame. This gave the children the opportunity to use technology to express through media what he/she knew. The children then watched themselves and reflected upon what they could do differently.



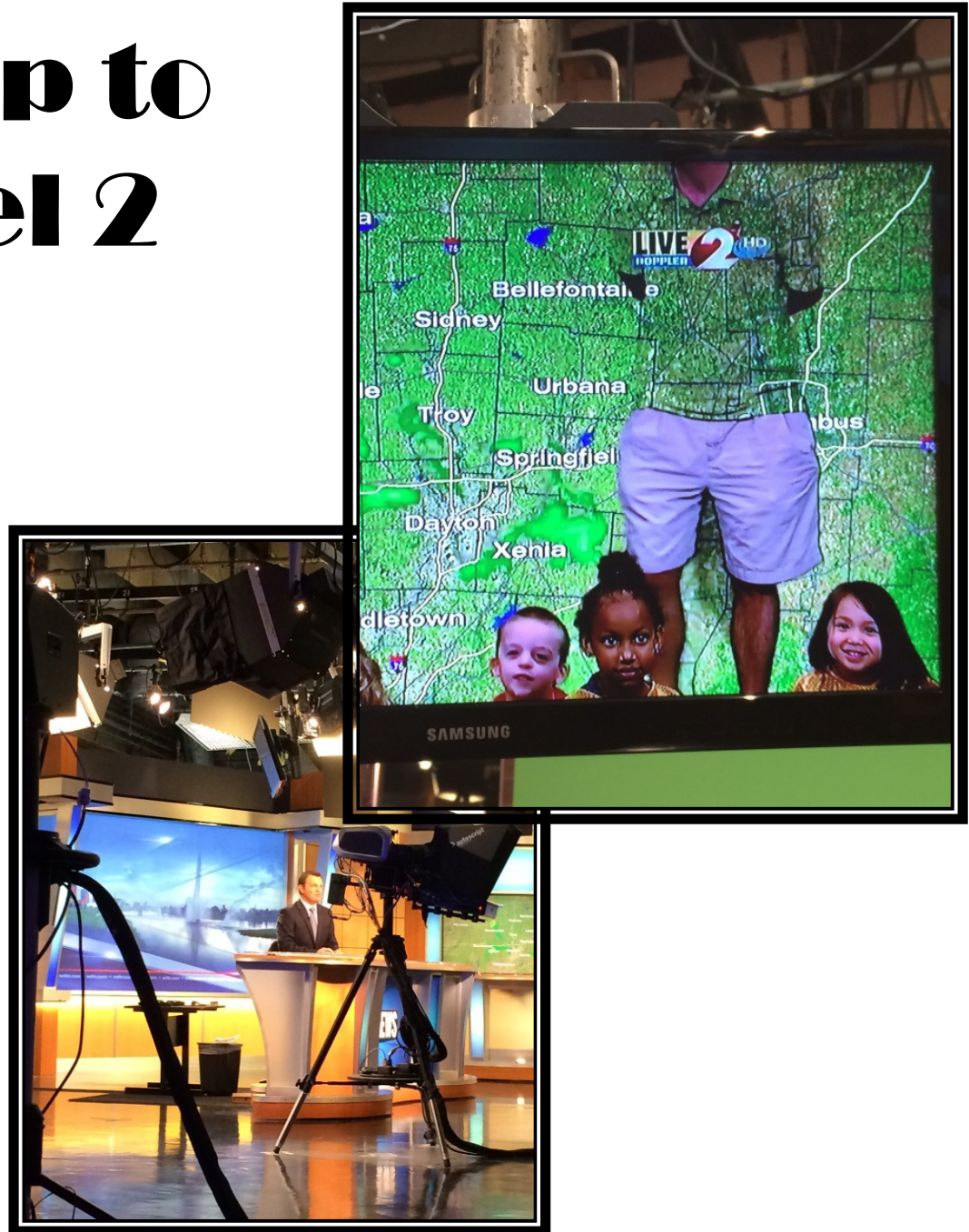
Rain Gauge

The children used their fine motor skills to connect five one inch blocks together. This incorporated several math skills; counting to five, applying one to one correspondence and using non- standard units of measure. The children assembled their rain gauges using a plastic, recycled bottle and a stick they collected from outside. When they were finished, they took their rain gauge outside and placed it on the ground to collect any precipitation that fell.



Field Trip to Channel 2

Jet Team 20 visited Channel 2 WDTN in order to see how the broadcasting part of meteorology works. They were even lucky enough to see a live broadcast! They saw a large satellite, lots of television cameras and the biggest hit, the green screen. They had great fun seeing themselves on the television. The class planned to take the information and apply it to their own weather center.





Pressure

The Jets used sponges to explain and understand the concept of pressure. The children applied a light touch and squeezed the sponge and related the small amount of water coming out to light rain when it falls. They squeezed the sponges hard and related it to when it rains a lot. The children were able to see the various amounts of water that came out of the sponges. This experience helped them better comprehend the H and L we see on weather maps which stands for high and low pressure.



Technology



The children used books and the computer to research satellites. They researched how they work and what they look like. The children learned how technology can play an important role in discovering answers to questions meteorologists have. The children were interested in creating a satellite and used small Legos to represent the satellites they found while researching.

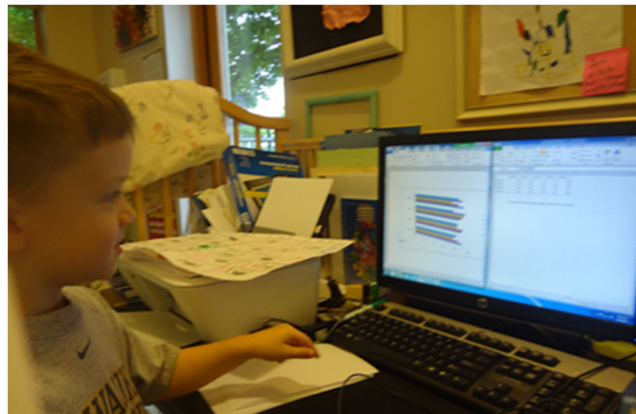
Satellites

A couple of the children, with some assistance, used the computer and Google to find pictures and information about satellites. The children discussed the location of the satellites and concluded they were in outer space. The children used Legos to create 3-D representations of several different types of satellites. To complete the satellite display the class used paper mache to create a sphere and painted it to resemble the Earth for the satellites to orbit.



Charts and Graphs

The Young Meteorologist investigation concluded with the children transferring the information from their weather charts to the computer. They were able to practice their technology skills by entering the temperatures in a spreadsheet or “frames” as one child stated. They continued by choosing a graph to share the data from the spreadsheet. The children experienced positive social interaction as they worked together and assisted each other in accomplishing the task on the computer.



What did you learn?

Meteorologists-Post Investigation

Saya - Tell the weather and show it.

Anthony - They have to practice the weather report.

Margaret - Talk

Beatrice - A person that figures out the weather by weather satellites. Tell people the weather. Helps people stay safe to know there is a bad storm.

Christopher- They need maps. They use tools for measuring the weather.

Maurion - Tells the weather/pictures.

T'mberlin - Meteorologists do the weather report. They feel it, they look at the sky.

Sadie - Give name and they just do the weather. They say it's sunny or cloudy.

Camilla - they know about the weather. Compass what the wind is going.

Beau- Camera on the satellite and takes pictures.

Max- Tells the weather. They use the green screen and a map.

Ellen - she tells the weather with the green screen. The green screen is green all of the time.

Landon - Reports the weather. He says if there will be a tornado. He looks at the computer. It gets information from the satellite.

Evelyn - She shows the weather.

Cameron - writes about weather.

Miles - A weather guy, they talk about the weather.

Macy - Report numbers of the temperature.