

Getting Ready

Books:

A drop of water, by Gordon Morrison
Rainy – Day Music, by Judith Jensen Hyde
Are you ready to play outside? By Mo Willems
Fluffy, flat, and wet: a book about clouds by
Dana Meachen Rau

Dramatic Play:

Set out rain coat and umbrella in dress-ups. Put plastic flowers out for “watering”. Do the dolls have raincoats?

Blocks:

Put toy boats and blue construction paper in block area. Help child cut blue for rivers, lakes or ponds. Set boats on the blue and build block roads or buildings around. Build a damn.

Music:

Recording of a thunderstorm
Audio or Video recording of Disney’s Fantasia, esp. the thunderstorm sequence of Beethoven’s Pastorale. Disney’s Bambi also has a thunderstorm scene, “Drip, drip, drop little April Showers”. (I’m not a fan of TV for children, but these two videos are classics. Although Bambi upset me a lot as a child, because he loses his mother)

Songs:

Then eentsie, weentsie spider

The Eentsie, weentsie spider when up the water spout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Up came the sun and dried up all the rain,
So the eentise, weentsie spider went up the spout again.

Rain Song

Sung to “If you’re happy and you know it”
First a little drop of rain hit the ground, (tap, tap)
Then another drop of rain hit the ground, (tap, tap)
Then another and another and another and another,
And pretty soon we heard a different sound!
(Splash, splash!)

What’s the weather

Sung to “Oh, my darling Clementine”
What’s the weather, what’s the weather,
What’s the weather, everyone? (Or insert child’s name)
Is it windy, is it cloudy, is there rain or is there sun?

Umbrellas

I put on my raincoat. (Pretend o put on coat)
I put on my hat (put on hat)
I put up my umbrella (fingertips touching over head)
Just like that!

Rain, Rain, Go Away

Rain, rain, Go away
Come again some other day
We want to go outside and play
Come again some other day.

Rain

Pitter, pat, pitter pat (drum fingers on floor)

The rain goes on for hours.

And though it keeps me in the house, it's very
(hold hands palms up and closed into fists in
front of you)

Good for (open fists) flowers (lift hands
imitating flowers growing up).

Materials to Gather

Rainbow Match: Gather fabric scraps in rainbow colors. Cut into small 2 inch squares – three of each color. Toss together. Child sorts and matches. Don't spend a lot. Cut scraps from discarded clothing, or get fabric samples from an upholstery store. Or use felt scraps. As an alternative, you can have child sort and match colored duplo bricks onto sheets of construction paper.

Weather puzzles. Toys Wholesale.net has a nice wooden weather puzzle for 12-36 months. If you can't find a weather puzzle, that's okay. But periodically you'll want to add new puzzles to your child's toys.

Projects

1. Black, gray, white paint, newsprint
2. A few bean seeds, paper cup or other container, soil-less planting mix
3. To make rain, boiling pot of water, tin pie plate, ice cubes, and an adult to supervise
4. Colored tissue paper, sturdy paper or poster board, glue

5. White rice, food coloring, rubbing alcohol, small plastic baggies, cookie sheet
6. Tap water, mineral water, soda water, distilled water and drinking glasses for tasting.
7. Obstacle course: design it from materials you have. Can do this inside in case of rain.
8. Colored Rice Rainbows: colored rice from above, glue, sky blue background paper or poster board
9. Eye droppers (droppers like from empty infant Tylenol bottles), paint, drinking straws, paper
10. Gray and blue construction paper, cotton balls, aluminum foil, glue stick

Build a craft box

Begin gathering odds and ends for crafts, store in a large box or shelves. Many things can be found for free just by looking carefully. Things like empty paper towel or toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, fabric and yarn scraps, sequins, glitter, different papers, broken jewelry, pipe cleaners, plain and colored tapes, glues, scissors, ruler, stencils, markers, colored chalk, liquid starch, beans, noodles, buttons, ribbons, rickrack, wiggly eyes, felt pieces, whatever you can think of, and an apron or smock. I like to use an old adult tee shirt. It covers everything, and is easy for the child to pull on, doesn't need to be tied. It's not water proof, though. Some places sell plastic children's painting smocks.

Monday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words: Spring, April, rain, thunder, wet, damp, cold, warm, cloudy, etc. Teach “Eentsy, Weentsy Spider”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: legos or duplos. Can you build some spiders with your duplos? Worms? Or a garden?
8:15	Free Play: set out props for dramatic play, blocks, books, music centers.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Do you need to wear rain boots in your area? Splash in puddles, if possible, on your way to the park.
11:15	Project: Paint with black, grey, and white paint on newsprint. Talk about rain.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Do you have any landscape tasks? Share them with your child. Rake up leaves, spread mulch. Explain what you do and why.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Plant a few bean seeds in a paper cup or recycled frozen juice can. Use soilless planting mix from store, to ensure plant’s success. Water it – not too much.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Week Tuesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words. Sing “Eentsie, Weentsie Spider” and teach “Rain, Rain, Go Away”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Rainbow Match Game. Then color with crayons, if child is interested.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Dig rivers in the sandbox, and pour in buckets of water. Float small toys. Watch how water erodes (washes away) the sandy banks.
11:15	Project: Make it rain. Boil water, let steam rise. Hold pie tin full of ice cubes above steam. Watch how the moist warm air condenses and falls again, just like rain. Supervise your child, of course.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Fill watering can with water and water landscaping or sandbox. Alternatively, if you’re an adventurous parent, let child water some soil and dig in it. Mud is so much fun! Paint with mud on large stones. Build mud houses and let air dry. Make mud cakes. Hose off outside before taking a bath.
4:30	Return home (you can move bath up here, if necessary.)
4:45	Project: Tissue paper rainbow. Cut small squares of tissue paper. Wrap around finger. Dab tip in glue, attach to rainbow shape cut from sturdy paper or cardboard.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Week Wednesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words. Sing songs. Learn: What's the weather and Umbrellas.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Weather Puzzles.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Make colored rice. Lay out on cookie sheets in the sun to dry. Save for later projects. Play with what time remains. (Put a cup of rice in a small bag. Add drops of red food coloring, and a teaspoon of rubbing alcohol. Zip bag shut and shake. Add more coloring, if desired. Color rice in the colors of the rainbow. Dry separately, store separately, for now.)
11:15	Project: Water test. Gather tap water, distilled water, mineral water, soda water. Pour each into clear drinking glass. Talk about similarities and differences. Taste, and compare. For a special treat, mix unsugared carbonated water in to fruit juice concentrate, serve with lunch.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Obstacle Course. Design a course for your youngster, demonstrate, then encourage him to do it. Example: hop like a bunny to the slide. Climb up, slide down. Roll somersaults to the sandbox. Carry teaspoons of sand to the pail, back and forth, until filled to a line (not too full). Run to the patio, jump up and down. Toss small balls in a laundry basket. Walk a tightrope (jump rope on the ground). Crab walk back to the starting line. Want to do it again?
4:30	Inside, go potty, wash up.
4:45	Project: Make Rainbows from colored rice. Paint an arch with glue onto sky blue paper. Shake red rice on the glue. Shake off excess. Paint another arch, shake on orange rice, etc. Repeat until all the colors are done. Let dry before hanging! Remainder of rice will go in a rice box for rainy days/sick days.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Week Thursday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words. Sing songs and do fingerplays. Teach Rain Song.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Do you have a park with water? Like a river, or small pond? Take a picnic there, and walk along the water. How many animals can you see on/in the water? Toss a leaf in the water and watch it float downstream.
11:15	Play at the park. Are there other children there?
12:00	Picnic Lunch, then clean up and return home. Potty, wash, go down for nap.
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Car Wash. Get the hose, small dish of soapy water, sponges. Line up trikes, wagons, strollers – whatever you don't mind your child "washing". Don't do this if it isn't warm enough in your area! Substitute blowing bubbles or just sandbox play.
4:30	Inside, potty, wash up.
4:45	Project: Drop small drops of paint onto white paper, blow through a straw to make the drops move. Add more drops of different colors. Talk about the wind as you make your pretty pictures.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Week Friday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words. Review songs and fingerplays. Sing songs from other weeks.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Pattern Blocks
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time.
11:15	Project: Rainy Day. Gray construction paper background. Cotton ball clouds, blue raindrops, aluminum foil lightning and puddles. Parent cuts raindrops for younger children – as large as a dime for 2yr olds. Demonstrate use of glue stick, and let child put it all together. Talk about rain, how it nourishes the earth, how it is a good thing. Play a recording of a rain storm in the background.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time.
4:30	Come inside, potty, wash up.
4:45	Project: How is the bean plant doing? Should have sprouted by now. Keep watching. Repot when it has four or more leaves, and it can go outside either in the ground or in a bigger pot. Next, make a collage of different colored yarns on black paper. Add fabric scraps, sequins, glitter, whatever materials are available in your craft box.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.