Weather and seasons: adult input plan

2 weeks, or one week a term · ages 2 to 5 · adult-led and child-initiated ideas for six learning areas

Big questions

- What is the weather like today?
- What should we wear outside?
- How does our place change through the year?

Key words

sunny · cloudy · rainy · windy · stormy · snowy · foggy · rainbow · spring · summer · autumn · winter

Area	Adult-led (small group, 10 to 15 minutes)	Child-initiated (set it up, then step back)
Talk and listening	Weather reporter: one child looks out of the window and describes the sky and the wind; the group chooses the weather card that fits.	Dress-up box with sun hats, scarves, a raincoat and an umbrella, next to a weather board children can change themselves.
Early reading and writing	Write a group weather diary for a week: children draw, you write their words, and you read the whole week back on Friday.	Weather word cards on the writing table with clipboards, so children can make their own forecast.
Maths	Collect rain in a clear flat-bottomed container and mark the level each day; compare more, less and the same.	Weather watch sheet on a clipboard by the door: children circle the day's weather and count the sunny days on Friday.
Exploring the world	Wind test: hang ribbons, paper and fabric outside and see which moves most; make a simple windsock together.	Seasonal tray of leaves, seed pods, flowers or cones collected this week, with magnifiers and a balance scale.
Creative play and art	Paint the sky for each kind of weather; mix greys for clouds and blues for a clear day.	Music corner: make rain with shakers, thunder with drums and wind with your voices.
Moving and fine motor	Weather moves: tiptoe drizzle, stamping storm, spinning wind, a snowman melting slowly to the floor.	Spray bottles of water to make rain outdoors; ice to explore on a hot day, with an adult close by.

Families: talk about the weather on the way in each day, and let your child choose what to wear for it.