

We Skoolhouse _____



Ready-Made Curriculum: The Sky Above Us



A Practical Guide for Exploration

Each unit offers a suggested flow of experiences designed to support deep, meaningful learning through play. You'll notice intentional repetition—this is purposeful. Repeating activities builds memory, mastery, confidence, attention, and focus, forming the foundation for long-term learning.

The experiences are open-ended & process-driven, focusing on how children learn rather than what they produce. This allows for a range of learning styles & encourages exploration at each child's unique pace.

Flexibility Matters

Each unit includes a suggested daily activity guide to support your planning—but it's not meant to be followed rigidly or completed in a set order:

- **Follow the children's lead:** If they're deeply engaged, slow down. If interest fades, it's okay to pause and return later. Some children need time to warm up to new ideas—don't move on too quickly. Repeating an invitation over several days can spark richer engagement.
- **Move at your own pace:** Stretch a week into two, repeat activities as long as needed, and allow units to grow over time.
- **Revisit, don't rush:** There's no need to introduce a new unit each month. Returning to a familiar concept—like revisiting water after exploring texture or paint—deepens understanding and strengthens memory. Revisiting isn't starting over—it's going further.

This guide is about making space for curiosity, experimentation, and meaningful learning. Use it as a springboard—trust yourself, trust the children, and allow learning to unfold naturally.



Unit: The Sky Above Us

Children explore what happens above their heads—light, clouds, wind, and flight—through observation, movement, and creation. The investigation grows from noticing and naming what fills the sky to experimenting with air, light, and weather patterns, ending with imaginative representations of flight and freedom.

Domain	How It Supports Development
Physical	Encourages whole-body movement and sensory integration through observation walks, wind play, and outdoor sky art. Builds fine motor control as children draw clouds, manipulate streamers, and explore with tools like droppers, mirrors, and flashlights.
Cognitive	Fosters scientific thinking through daily observation, pattern recognition, and prediction. Children explore change and cause-and-effect as they test how light, air, and water interact in the natural world.
Language	Builds descriptive and expressive vocabulary around weather, movement, and light. Shared storytelling and documentation support emergent literacy and conversational turn-taking as children describe what they see above them.
Social-Emotional	Encourages wonder, calm attention, and emotional regulation through observing natural rhythms. Collaborative sky-inspired projects nurture community, empathy, and connection with nature.

Unit: The Sky Above Us

Focus: Explore patterns, colors, and movements of the sky through observation, art, and science.

Books: Sk Little Cloud by Eric Carle, Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds, It Looked Like Spilt Milk

Songs: "Mr. Sun," "Let's Go Fly a Kite,"

Vocabulary: Sky, cloud, breeze, gust, float, drift, shade, glow, shadow, reflect, move, air, wind, light, fly, soar, weather, rain, fog, clear, bright, swirl

Week 1: Looking Up - What's in the Sky?

Focus Concept: Observation, noticing, and naming what fills the sky.

Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Go on a "sky walk" — sit down or lay down outdoors, look up, and sketch what you see.	"What colors and shapes can you find in the sky?"
Tuesday	Offer shaving cream, brushes and a mirror to explore reflections, textures, & the sky above. (ideally bring outside to reflect real clouds).	"What do you notice when you move the shaving cream across the mirror?"
Wednesday	Explore blue and white paints, sponges, and rollers to make abstract sky art.	"How can you paint the sky you saw today?"
Thursday	Shadow tracing outdoors — trace bodies or objects in the sun.	"How do shadows form?"
Friday	Revisit your first sketches and compare the sky today. Revisit activity of sketching the sky.	"What changed? What stayed the same?"

Week 2: Clouds, Wind, and Weather

Focus Concept: Exploring how air, wind, and weather shape the sky

Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Use fans and light materials (feathers, tissue, scarves, balloons) to explore how air moves.	"How does air move? Can we see wind?"
Tuesday	Offer shaving cream, brushes and a mirror to explore reflections, textures, & the sky above. (ideally bring outside to reflect real clouds).	"What do you notice when you move the shaving cream across the mirror?"
Wednesday	Blow or fan watered-down paint across large paper to watch color drift and blend.	"How can we create air?" What do you notice about how paint moves?"
Thursday	Offer white materials (cotton, tissue, fabric, paper) to create a cloud collage - supplement with real images of clouds for inspiration	"What stories can the clouds in the sky tell us?"
Friday	Go outdoors to feel the weather and sketch or paint what you notice about the sky today.	"How does today's sky look/feel?"



Week 3: Light, Shadows, and Color in the Sky

Focus Concept: Discovering how light from the sky changes what we see.

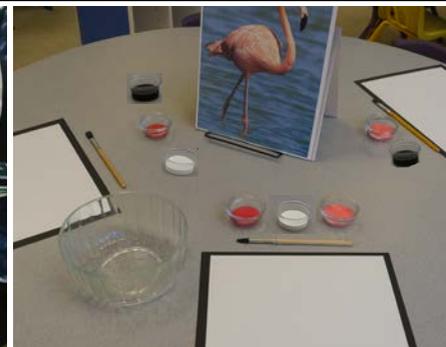
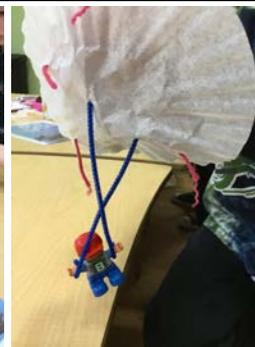
Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Explore mirrors and flashlights indoors or near a window to notice how light bounces and reflects.	"Where does the light go when you move the mirror?"
Tuesday	Create shadows with bodies, blocks, or objects under sunlight or a lamp.	"How do we find/make shadows?"
Wednesday	Invite children to cut and layer transparent materials (cellophane, tissue paper) on a window or light table.	"Can light pass through anything?"
Thursday	Observe sunlight outdoors—look for reflections on puddles, windows, or shiny surfaces. Invite children to draw what they see.	"What does sunlight do when it touches different things?"
Friday	Return to mirrors and flashlight exploration and/or sky sketching outside.	"What did you notice about light this week?"



Week 4: Flight & Imagination Above Us

Focus Concept: Exploring & imagining how things move through air

Day	Activity	Prompt/Focus
Monday	Explore how paper ("planes") moves through air. Let children fold, crumple, and toss different kinds of paper to see how each one travels.	"What makes something fly?"
Tuesday	Use fabric, paper, or coffee filters with string to explore floating. Attach small objects, and let children drop them from different heights. Welcome prediction-making.	"What makes things fall fast/slow?"
Wednesday	Observe birds or watch short real footage of flight. Provide real images of birds for sketching.	"What do you notice about how wings move?"
Thursday	Collaborate on a large mural to represent the sky. Include paint, paper, fabric, and loose parts.	"What belongs in your sky?"
Friday	Reflect and invite children to share their favorite discoveries through stories, movement, or art.	"What is your favorite thing about the sky?"



Integrating The Sky Above Across Centers

Integrating elements of your investigation across the centers gives children repeated opportunities to explore and deepen their understanding in diverse ways. When materials and provocations connected to the broader topic appear throughout the environment, children can build, imagine, experiment, and express ideas across contexts. This natural repetition strengthens memory, supports flexible thinking, and invites children to transfer and expand their knowledge. Rather than isolating learning to one area, weaving the investigation through the classroom honors how young children learn best—through play, exploration, and meaningful, ongoing connections.

Dramatic Play Area

- Transform into a weather station, observatory, or airport.
- Add binoculars, scarves, hats, sunglasses, and clipboards for “meteorologists.”
- Include soft blue fabrics, cloud pillows, and rotating lights or fans to mimic movement.
- Encourage children to act out stories about wind, weather, or flight (as birds or planes).



Blocks and Construction

- Offer lightweight materials—boxes, tubes, and translucent blocks—for sky structures.
- Add feathers, cotton, and string to create “clouds” or flight elements.
- Use mirrors or light tables beneath block play to explore reflections and shadows.
- Add bird figures or more airplanes for play.



Integrating The Sky Above (Cont'd)



Science and Discovery Center

- Provide fans, ribbons, feathers, and small windmills to study air movement.
- Add prisms, mirrors, and flashlights for exploring sunlight and reflection.
- Include jars, droppers, and water for simple weather experiments.
- Create sky observation charts to document daily changes.

Art Studio

- Invite sky-inspired painting with wide brushes, rollers, and sponges.
- Place an easel near a window or mirror to let real light inspire their art.

Sensory Table

- Fill with cotton, scarves, or cloud dough
- Use blue-tinted water with floating items to represent clouds or puddles.

Outdoor Exploration

- Observe the sky daily—track clouds, light, and wind through drawing or movement.
- Ribbons, bubbles, or kites to make air visible.
- Offer clipboards, magnifiers, and mirrors to encourage looking both up and around.

