

MY WORLD - AIR



1. Where Is Air?

Play some open-ended games to find out what children know about air.

Examples include:

- ① Have two balloons. Blow one up and leave the other one in its original state. What's the difference? What's inside the balloon that you blew up. (Note: balloons are very hard for children to blow up. If children would like to participate in this, use paper bags instead).
- ① Have a pile of empty containers with lids in a basket and let the children take one each (examples include lunchboxes, drink bottles, jars, shoeboxes, paint pots and so on). Ask them to open their container and tell everybody what's inside. Facilitate the discussion as appropriate.
- ① Ask the children to try and hold air in their hands. Is it really there?
- ① Go outside on a windy day and encourage children to make observations about what they see and feel. Does air move? Can air move things? How do we know?
- ① Explore other ways that air can move. Have a look at fans that may be located in the classroom or fill a plastic bag with air using a hair dryer.
- ① Blow bubbles with the children. What's inside the bubbles? Where did the air come from?
- ① Play with straws and water. Blow through one end of a straw while the other end is in the water. What happens? Where did the bubbles come from?
- ① Play 'air detectives'. Ask the children to go exploring around the classroom or centre to find all the places that air is hiding. Record their discoveries.

After you have played a range of introductory activities, help the children to record what they know about air using photographs, graphs or displays.