

Chat, Play, Share

Whether the weather

Whether the weather be fine,
Or whether the weather be
not,
Whether the weather be cold,
Or whether the weather be
hot,
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not!

[Whether the weather nursery rhyme music
and lyrics | Words for Life](#)

Younger children

Observe your child as you say the rhyme. Do they make eye contact? Are they making noises in response to your voice as they 'join in' with you? Emphasise the rhythm by moving in time to the beat or clapping your hands. Have fun as the end speeds up and turns into a tongue twister!

Dummy reminder: If you choose to use a dummy, wait until breastfeeding is well established (at up to about 4 weeks old). Stop giving a dummy to your baby to go to sleep between 6 and 12 months. Dummies impact the articulation of speech and distort vocalisation, preventing babies from babbling or making cooing noises and toddlers from having conversations.

Older children

Talk about the seasons, weather and current temperature. Encourage your child to sing the rhyme to themselves as they decide what clothes to wear that day. Help them to name items of clothing e.g. sandals, jumper, T-shirt, wellington boots etc. Talk about what the weather would be doing for you to wear each item. You could choose a selection and ask your child to sort them into 'hot' or 'cold' weather piles.

Find an atlas or map of the world and discuss which countries are hot and cold. Are they always cold/hot? Why? Australia has seasons but their Summer is our Winter. Can you identify any deserts? What would you need to pack for an expedition somewhere hot?

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a story together about hot or cold weather and chat about the pictures and story. Also read some non-fiction books to explore the weather further. Examples of stories:

- Hot and Cold by Eric Carle
- One Snowy Night (A Tale from Percy's Park) by Nick Butterworth
- The Big Freeze by Pippa Curnick
- Look and Wonder: The Wonderful World of Weather by Barnham, Kay
- Sun by Sam Usher

Hot and Cold

Hide a small object or toy somewhere in the space where you are playing. Depending on the age of the child, either tell them what to look for or give them a clue-tell them the initial sound e.g. 'b' for bear.

As your child moves around to look for the hidden item, tell them they are getting colder as they move away from it and getting hotter as they get nearer to it. If they keep moving in the wrong direction use words that indicate degrees of cold, such as freezing, icy, burning, boiling or scorching.



Ice Decorations

When water gets very cold it will freeze and turn from a liquid into a solid. On a cold winter morning go for a walk and talk about what you see and signs in nature that tell you how cold the temperature is. Can you see your breath or find a frozen puddle? Have a go at making some ice decorations. Put some water into different shaped vessels or ice cube trays with a loop of string and leave overnight outside on a freezing night or in your freezer. Add some natural materials like berries, twigs, grass, pebbles and leaves.

<https://muddyfaces.co.uk/activities/ice-snow>