

A STEM in the Park

Take Home Activity

STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Gone with the Wind: Experimenting with Air

What You Need

- A sheet of paper
- Scissors
- A plastic drinking straw
- A ruler
- Cellophane tape



What To Do

1. Cut one strip of paper that measures 7 inches long by 1 inch wide. Cut another strip that measures 5 inches long by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide.
2. Make two rings out of the strips of paper by taping both ends.
3. Carefully slip one end of the straw in between the taped ends of the big ring. Do the same with the smaller ring.
4. Check to make sure that the rings stand straight up from the straw. If they are crooked, the glider will not fly as well. Tape the inside of each ring to the straw.

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Learn...

What can you feel but not see? The wind. Wind can be as gentle as a breeze or as powerful as a hurricane. Understanding wind has been of interest to humans for hundreds of years. From early hot air balloon rides, to airships, to the Wright Brothers first flight in 1903, exploring wind has been of great interest. At this station, using household items, you will build a glider, pinwheel or a helicopter. Experimenting with these creations will allow you to see how air works.

This is all part of the fun and learning. Ready, set, liftoff!

Investigate...

Experiment with your air mover. Use the scientific method to help you.

- Ask a question. How far will my flier go? How high will it fly?
- Form a hypothesis. I think...
- Experiment.
- Analyze your findings. Were you correct or not? Why didn't it go as far as you predicted? How can I change the results? Can you change your results by adding a little weight or by modifying how you throw your air mover?
- Share your results.
- Try again if you like.

This activity is brought to you by West Side Montessori



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