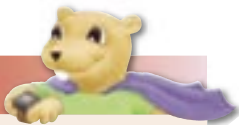


# Family Investigation Night

## Kites

>> WWFI-1

### Safety



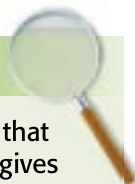
Have family members help supervise to make sure materials are handled safely and properly.

### Management



Take photos of children and family members as they work together.

### Research



Research shows that offering choices gives children a sense of control and helps them understand that decisions have consequences.

**Use this activity at any time during Weather Watchers to invite family members to participate in their child's learning. Send home invitations in advance.**

### Objectives

- Use writing, drawing, and art tools.
- Solve problems through active exploration and interactions with peers and adults.

### Materials

- drawing paper
- pencils and markers
- paint, paintbrushes, paint trays
- assorted materials for making kites (plastic trash bags, shower curtains, tissue or craft paper, newspaper, lightweight cloth such as nylon or polyester, lightweight cardboard, etc.)
- kite frame supplies (thin, lightweight, flexible sticks; 1/4-inch dowel rods; plastic drinking straws, etc.)
- scissors, knives, measuring tapes, tape, glue, stapler
- fishing line, thin nylon cord, kite string

## Look and Ask

Gather at the Investigation Station. Explain that children have been learning what wind can do and what kinds of weather wind brings. Then ask children and family members to look out the window. Ask:

- **How would you describe today's wind? Is it steady or gusty? Is it strong or gentle? In which direction is the wind blowing?**
- **Look over the materials. Can you make a kite that will fly in today's wind?**

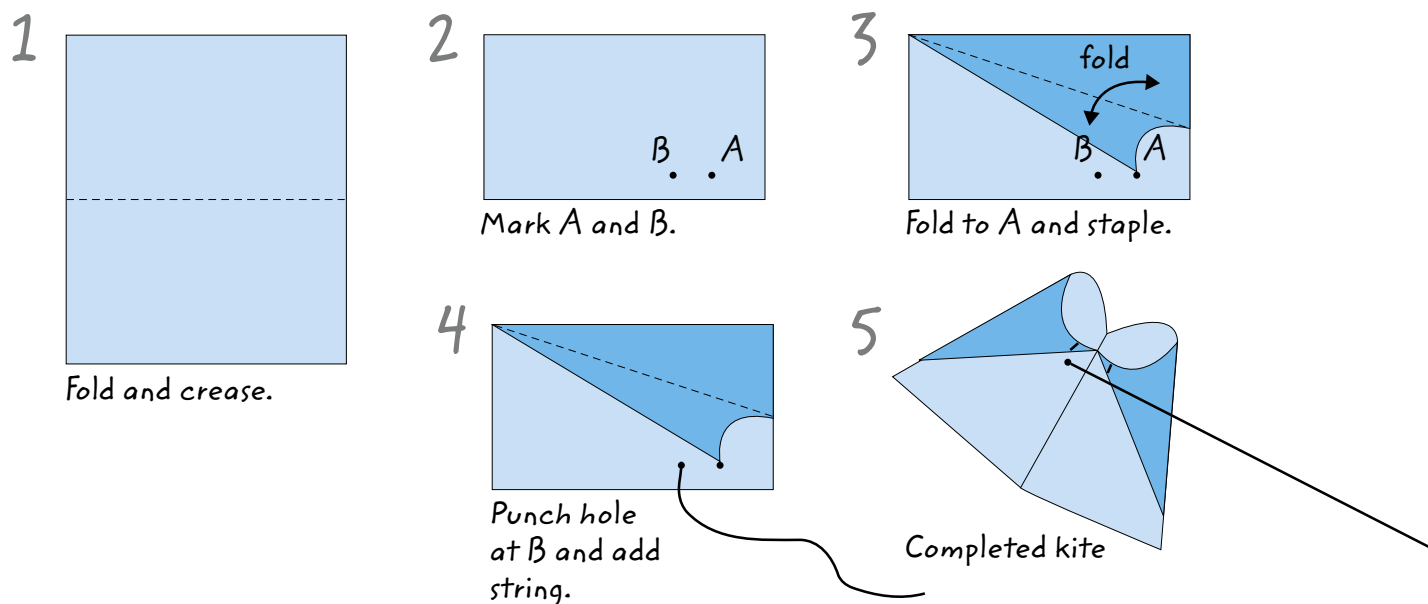
Tell families to talk about the materials they want to use, think of a design, draw a plan, and work as a family to make a kite.

## Try It and Try Again

If you have family members who are kite enthusiasts, invite them to talk about techniques. Then observe as children and family members plan and make their kites. Offer ideas such as:

- **If you decide to draw or paint a design on your kite after gluing paper to the frame, you might tear the paper. Draw or paint your design first.**
- **If you cut the material or paper to the exact size and shape of your frame, there won't be enough to fold over and glue. Try leaving extra material or paper.**

## One Easy Kite Plan



## Think About It

Invite families to display their kites. If possible, take photos. Ask:

- Does your kite look like the one you planned? If not, how is it different?
- Did you have any problems? How did you solve them?
- What did you learn about designing and making a kite?
- Where would be the best place to test your kite near the school?

## Make Meaning

Take families outside to test their kites. As you tour the site, ask:

- Why is your kite flying (well/not so well)?
- How might you change your design next time?
- Why is it important to stay away from trees and buildings?  
(If a kite flies into a tree or building, it might be ruined.)
- Is this the best kind of day for flying a kite? What makes you think so?

### For 3-year-olds

# 3

Make a model or a sketch of several easy-to-make kites to display on Family Investigation Night. Children and family members can then decide which kind of kite they would like to make or come up with another plan.