

Liquid Sunshine Days

It's raining; it's pouring; but today doesn't have to be boring!

Camp happens rain (or as we call it "liquid sunshine") or shine; get your rain gear out and have fun!

Parents: at camp we take safety very serious and you should tell your campers these same rules.

If you hear thunder or see lightening get indoors now!

With your permission, let your campers get a little wet in a light rain. If it's raining too heavy maybe they could still be outside, but under cover. Here are some outside and inside activities to keep campers busy.

Outside Activity

Put on your rain gear (poncho, jacket or a garbage bag with hole for face). We don't allow umbrellas at camp, but if you insist that's OK too.

1. Take a short walk; remember the weather can change quickly so stay close to indoor access. You could walk around your neighborhood, backyard or just in an empty parking lot. This could be a family event, or with older trusted siblings.
 - a. Try to catch one raindrop on the back of your hand. Watch how it rolls off. Does a second drop roll the same way? Compare drop sizes. [Joke time: What did one raindrop say to the other raindrop? My plop is bigger than your plop!]
 - b. Do you smell anything different than when it's dry? Some plants and animals leave different scents when wet.
 - c. Take a moment to listen to the "music" played by the rain hitting different objects (trees, sidewalk, car, you).
 - d. Find a puddle. Should you walk around it? Should you jump over it? Should you stomp through it? Or should you learn to swim? Ask parents BEFORE you do anything!
 - e. Look for a rainbow!
2. Sing in the rain. Sing your favorite camp song or any song. Video record it or just snap a pic. Parents, with your permission we'd love to see them too. If singing is not enough, dancing in the rain is fun too. "Oh, wasn't it a bit of luck that I was born a baby duck. With yellow socks and yellow shoes, I could go wherever I choose. Quack, Quack, Quack, Quack, Quack – Go ducks!"
3. Paint with the rain. Cover a sheet of paper using different markers, watercolors, and/or different kinds of paint. Put it out in the rain. Can you see the raindrops in your painting? Which colors wash away? Which kind of paint stays on the paper?

Inside Activity

1. Scavenger Hunts. Fun for all ages. Encourage a good handwashing before you begin. Parents: you may want to have an open discussion about your child's findings ask "why" they chose that item.
 - a. Kinder / Daisy / Brownie Levels – Preschool through 2nd grade
 - ◇ something yellow
 - ◇ a book
 - ◇ something on your bed
 - ◇ something to write or draw with
 - ◇ a sock
 - ◇ a spoon
 - ◇ something soft
 - ◇ something round or circular
 - ◇ something you would bring to camp or a hat
 - ◇ a snack
 - b. Fly-up / Junior Levels -3rd through 5th grade
 - ◇ something that starts with the letter "C"
 - ◇ a book without pictures
 - ◇ something you sleep with
 - ◇ a pencil
 - ◇ a clean sock
 - ◇ a cooking spoon
 - ◇ something smooth
 - ◇ something rectangular, square or cube
 - ◇ something you would bring to camp or a hat
 - ◇ a snack
 - c. Older Girls – 6th through 8th grade
 - ◇ something that starts with the letter "A"
 - ◇ a book you read
 - ◇ something on your nightstand or dresser
 - ◇ a red pen or highlighter
 - ◇ 2 mis-matched socks, extra point if you're wearing them
 - ◇ a slotted spoon or one with holes
 - ◇ something rough
 - ◇ something triangular or pointy (no scissors/ knives/ sharp objects)
 - ◇ something you would bring to camp
 - ◇ a snack
 - d. Boys / Brothers – any age level
 - ◇ something blue / or favorite color
 - ◇ a book with pictures
 - ◇ something on your bedroom floor
 - ◇ a pen
 - ◇ a dirty sock
 - ◇ a big spoon
 - ◇ something hard
 - ◇ something round or circular
 - ◇ something you would bring to camp or a hat
 - ◇ a snack

Great job everyone! Now wash your hands. Enjoy your snack and please put everything back where you found it (or where it belongs).

2. Weather Experiments – kids are always learning and it can be fun too. These experiments are meant to be done by kids with minimal help from adults. It's great for kids to just talk about their observations but don't feel obligated to turn this into a "school" lesson. For more ideas, visit the <https://www.weatherwizkids.com> website.

TRACK A THUNDERSTORM

MATERIALS:

- thunderstorm
- stopwatch

PROCESS:

After you see a flash of lightning, use a stopwatch or count the number of seconds until you hear the thunder.

For every five seconds the storm is one mile away. So all you have to do is divide the number of seconds you count by five to get the number of miles away the storm is.

EXPLANATION:

Light travels faster than sound. The lightning and thunder happen at the same time, but light reaches your eye instantly, while sound takes a little longer. Have you ever seen lightning without thunder? You may have heard people call that 'heat lightning'. Well actually there is no such thing as 'heat lightning'. It's just lightning that is over 15 miles away and too far away for you to hear the thunder.

CREATE EVAPORATION

MATERIALS:

- hand sanitizer

PROCESS:

Pour some hand sanitizer on your hands and rub your hands together, as if you were washing your hands.

Your hands are now wet, so do your hands feel cooler? Answer: Yes!

After waiting a few seconds, are your hands now dry? Answer: Yes!

The hand sanitizer evaporated off your hands and your hands felt cool, therefore evaporation is a cooling process!

Repeat the steps above, but this time move your hands through the air. This simulates the wind. Do your hands feel even colder now? Answer: Yes!

EXPLANATION:

What happens? Again, evaporation is a cooling process and adding wind to the picture makes evaporation happen faster. This makes your hands feel even colder. This is why we have a "Wind Chill" factor. The wind causes moisture on your skin to evaporate at a faster rate, therefore making you feel colder.

MAKE A THUNDERSTORM

MATERIALS:

- clear, plastic container (size of shoebox)
- red food coloring
- ice cubes made with blue food coloring



PROCESS:

Fill the plastic container two-thirds full with lukewarm water

Let the water sit for one minute.

Place a blue ice cube at one end of the plastic container.

Add three drops of red food coloring to the water at the other end of the plastic container.

Watch what happens.

EXPLANATION:

The blue and cold water sinks while the red and warm water rises. This happens because of convection. The blue water represents the cold air mass and the red water represents the warm, unstable air mass. A thunderstorm is caused by unstable air and convection plays an important part. A body of warm air is forced to rise by an approaching cold front therefore thunderstorm's form.

MAKE A RAIN CLOUD

from <https://onelittleproject.com/shaving-cream-rain-clouds/>

MATERIALS:

- A couple of clear glasses, vases, or bowls (it's fun to switch up the shapes and sizes!)
- Food coloring
- Shaving cream (not gel)
- Small bowls or containers that hold 1 to 2 ounces
- Water
- An eye dropper, syringe or 1/4 teaspoon measuring spoon



PROCESS:

- Fill the small containers with water. The less water you use (so the more concentrated the food coloring), the faster your “rain” will drop. But on the other hand, the more water you use, the more rain you’ll be able to make. So keep that in mind as you fill them up.
- Add different colors of food coloring to each of the small containers. My containers held about 1 ounce of water and I added about 10 drops of food coloring.
- Fill a clear glass with water about 2/3 full.
- Top it with a generous amount of shaving cream.
- Use the eye dropper (or syringe, or 1/4 tsp measuring spoon) to drop the different colors of water onto the shaving cream cloud. The closer you squirt to the edges, the faster it will go through the shaving cream and come down as rain.

EXPLANATION:

The water is like the air, and the shaving cream is like the clouds. And as the clouds get saturated with water, they produce rain.