

Creative Recycled Windsock

Help your child observe or “see” wind with a windsock made from materials found in the recycling bin.

Minute to Learn

As you craft your windsock, discuss wind and weather patterns. Ask your child how they know it’s windy. What happens outside when it’s windy? What do you see? Trees sway in the wind and leaves that have fallen swirl or rustle. What do you hear?

Before you hang your windsock, blow on it as hard as you can. Think about different types of weather and how they might affect the windsock. What might happen to the windsock when it rains outside?



Materials

- Recycled fabric strips or used plastic grocery bags to make it *waterproof*
- Scissors
- String
- An empty soda bottle

Directions

1. Cut a ring from the soda bottle. (Note: The edges may be a little sharp, so let an adult do this step.)
2. Direct your child to cut 1-inch wide strips out of the recycled fabric or plastic bags. If you have colored bags, you can use a variety to make your windsock multicolored. (An adult may also need to help with this step.)
3. Fold each strip in half and thread the folded end through the soda bottle ring. You should have a loop on one side of the ring and the tails on the other.
4. Thread the tails of the plastic strip through the loop and pull gently. Repeat with all of your fabric or plastic strips until the soda bottle ring is completely covered.
5. Tightly tie a piece of string at 3 locations around the soda bottle ring. Keep strings at same length and toe together at top. Hang your windsock and watch it fly!

TIP: Start to make your observations on different days! Track how the windsock blows over time. Which way does the windsock blow each day? Check in the morning and in the evening before bed. When is it windiest?

