

Activity Share: **Take Flight With a DIY Kite**

Age group: Toddler & Preschool

Materials:

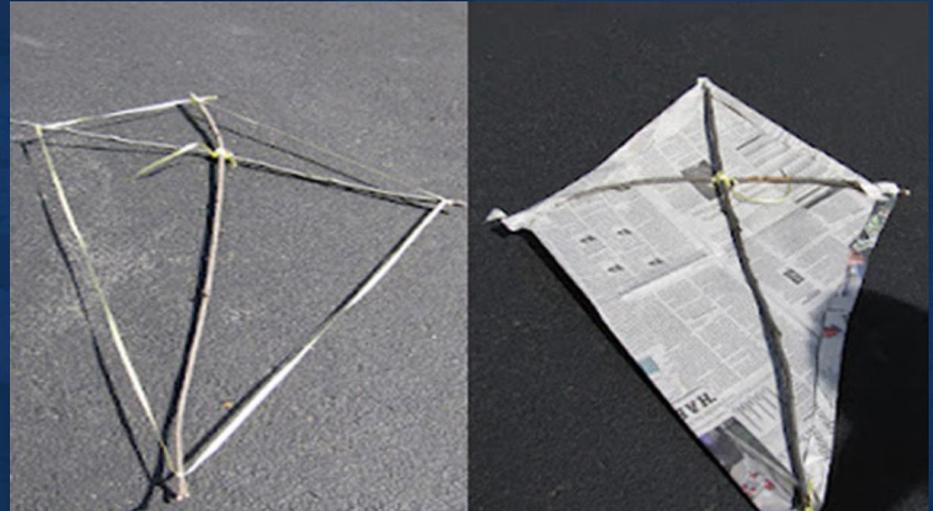
Newspaper

String or ribbon

Glue

2 straight sticks about 2-3 feet long,
one slightly shorter than the other

Craft knife or small knife to cut into
wood



Building a kite is a great way to explore wind and how it moves things.

Before You Play

Go outside or look out of a window with your child. Ask, "Is it windy?" "How can you tell?" Ask if she sees objects moving or is everything is still. Explain that wind is simply moving air. It can move fast or slow and in different directions.

Tell her that you're going to build a kite, then take it outside to see how high it will fly. Also let her know that it make take a few test runs before she gets the hang of it.

If it's too windy outside, build the kite indoors to keep the newspaper from flying before you're ready!

Directions

1 Carefully carve a small notch into both ends of each wooden stick. The notches must be cut in the same direction.

2 Take the string and tie the sticks at the center, so they are shaped like a cross. Make sure the notches are lined up. The horizontal stick should be slightly shorter than the vertical stick.

3 String your string into the notches around the ends of the sticks.

4 Help your child unfold the newspaper and cut a pattern to match the shape of the kite frame. Make it an inch or two larger than your frame, all the way around, so you can fold the edges over.

5 Help your child spread the newspaper over the stick frame, fold the edges over the string, and glue them in place.

6 Tie a long string to the kite where the sticks cross.

7 Now, it's time to fly the kite! Ask your child to observe how the wind affects the kite. Ask questions like, "Can you tell which direction the wind is blowing? Can you fly the kite when it's not windy? Why not?"