AIR AND FLIGHT
INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

AIR

SCIENCE
• Identify objects that are full of air.
• Discuss what would happen to Earth if it were not surrounded by air.
• Research other planets and moons in our solar system that have some type of air (atmosphere). Could humans live there? Does weather exist there?
• Collect a variety of natural and synthetic objects. By tossing and dropping the objects, test which ones stay in the air the longest. Discuss why certain objects “float” longer than others.
• Observe clouds forming. Point out that clouds are formed by changes in temperature and the motion of air.

MATHEMATICS
• Measure how much a student can inflate a balloon with one breath of air. Measure the balloon’s circumference after each breath.
• Fill up various sizes of balloons with air and determine which balloon stays in the air longer when released. Discuss why.
Technology
• Invent and build an air-driven device using household items.
• Explore objects and materials you can use to move air, such as paper fans, straws, and pinwheels.
• Determine what devices move air in your home and your school (examples may include air conditioners, heaters, fans in computers and other equipment).

Flight Science
• Compare bats with airplanes.
• Discuss why some birds fly and some do not.
• Predict how aircraft will function in space
• Discuss why some plants have seeds that “fly.”
• Discuss why wind is important to flying.
• Compose a list of living things that fly and a list of those that do not fly.
• List safety concerns pilots address when flying in aircraft.
• Compare and contrast how helicopters and airplanes fly.
• Compare and contrast some of the different kinds of aircraft.

Mathematics
• Experiment building kites with different geometric shapes. Determine which kite flies the best.
• Determine how fast students can flap their arms. Graph and compare.
• Many birds migrate. Using a map, calculate how far some birds travel when they migrate.
• Make an aircraft drawing by connecting dots using numbers that require students to count by 2s or 3s.
• Test fly a paper or Styrofoam glider and determine the glide time. Record and graph results.

Fine Arts
• Outline the shape of an airplane using a meter-length piece of string or yarn.
• List popular songs that contain flying as a theme.

Social Studies
• Create a pictorial history of flying, including kites, balloons, helicopters, and airplanes.
• Discuss the impact flying machines have had on civilization.
• List the many jobs and careers that were created by the industry of flight.

Language Arts
• Read mythology stories such as Icarus that are related to flight.
• Have students write poems about flying.
• Write open-ended stories about flying and have the students complete them.
• Develop flash cards for the parts of an airplane.