



# It's Raining!

Welcome to *It's Raining!*

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have funded this water resources learning tool to provide young students an introduction to how the rain can have an effect on their environment and to help the students become more aware of their impact on it. Since the rain that falls at their homes eventually ends up in ponds, lakes and at the beach, their behavior can have a big influence on what happens to that stormwater on the way to their favorite swimming and fishing areas. It's important to introduce to young children that the decisions they make can help keep our waters clean.

This learning tool is correlated to grades K-2 of the Sunshine State Standards.

## Pages 1 and 2

Use a chart or graphic organizer to display daily changes in weather. Discuss what happens on a rainy day. What gets wet when it rains?

Make a list of children's answers.

Emphasize that the rain falls on animals, grass, trees, sidewalks and streets, too.

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.1.3*

## Pages 3 - 8

Another name for rain is stormwater. Stormwater travels after it falls. Some of the stormwater lands on the grass and flows into a pond or ditch. Other stormwater turns into runoff that flows over the streets and into the storm drains. The runoff collects all kinds of things as it goes over the streets and sidewalks.

Ask the students to share any water-related experiences they've had like going fishing or going to the beach. Introduce the idea that the stormwater that starts out at their house will eventually end up in ponds, lakes and at the beach!

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.2*

## Teacher's Guide

### Pages 9 and 10

Emphasize the concept that after it rains, some of the runoff collects trash, leaves and dirt that can have a very negative effect on the environment.

Why do the creatures in the sea look so worried? The stormwater flows into the storm drains and eventually ends up in the Gulf and other waterways. The trash, leaves and dirt will end up in the water where they go fishing or that they play in at the beach. The fish don't survive very well with all the extra junk in the water.

There is a need for protection of our environment. Peoples' actions have an impact on the water around them. They can choose to pick up the leaves and grass clippings in their yard and sweep the dirt out of their driveways before it gets into the storm drains.

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.2*

### Page 11

The students can help keep our water clean. There is a need for protection of our environment. It's important that students understand that they can have a direct influence on the quality of life of things around them. The activities of humans affect plants, animals and other sea life in many ways.

Introduce the simple rule: Only rain down the drain.

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.2*

### Page 12

**Problem Solving:** Ask the students for ways they can make good choices to keep our waterways clean.

We can cause changes in our environment that can be positive or negative. What ways can we care for the water?

- Pick up leaves and branches.
- Pick up litter and put it in the trash.
- When we walk our dog, pick up after our pet.

*Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.1, SC.G.2.1.2*