

Flying a Kite

When the weather is nice, flying a kite is fun. It helps if there's a light wind. However, a strong wind can blow the kite away.

Find a wide-open spot. You don't want trees, power lines, or traffic lights in the way. Your kite could get stuck on them. If your kite gets stuck, ask a grown-up for help. Don't try to get it yourself.

Also be sure there's nothing to trip on. When you're watching your kite in the sky, you might not see what's on the ground. An empty ball field, a field, or a beach might work best.

A kite flies when the wind catches it. There's a string attached to one side and a tail on the bottom. The tail helps to balance it in the sky and makes the bottom half heavier than the top. Your job is to hold onto the string and keep the kite flying.

To get your kite in the air, stand with your back to the wind. Hold onto the spool of string. Lift the kite so the wind blows into it. If it doesn't go right up, run into the wind. Keep checking behind you to see how the kite is doing. The more string you release, the higher the kite can go. Hang onto that spool of string! Sometimes the kite can pull hard, so you have to use all your strength.

The first time you try, your kite may come crashing to the ground. Once you've had some practice, you'll get better at keeping it in the air.