PARENT NOTES: GEOTHERMAL ENERGY!!

CONVECTION CANDLE

Today we learned about geothermal energy and convection currents, and made a spinning spiral to show where these currents are. You may have been asked to help with this one, as it needs a source of heat like a candle or boiling water to work really well.

ASK YOUR CHILD

What did you make today?
(A spinning spiral which moves with the force from convection currents).

Why does your spiral spin?
(Hot air from the candle rises, and pushes on the spiral, which starts it spinning. As the air cools, it sinks back down again - we call this a convection current).

How do convection currents affect us on earth?
(Air heated by the sun rises which causes cold air to move into its space which is where wind in created)

Why do you think foil is a good material for your spiral?
(it is able to tolerate the heat from a candle without setting on fire and is lightweight enough to be moved by the small convection current force)

Have you seen hot air rising before?
(Sometimes the air can look wiggly when it's hot mixing with cold like when it bounces off a hot road, or rises from a hot radiator)