

Play-based learning at home

Why sinking and floating?

This is learning experience allows children to explore their emerging skills in science and numeracy.

It can also help:

- Language and communication skills, such as below on top, sink and floats, heavy/light, round/square, add/take away, how, what happens if, etc.
- Maths and science concepts - weight, counting, sink/float, space, numbers, graphing.
- Make prediction/guess.
- Investigate why/how things happen.
- Problem solve how to change the outcome.
- Concentration to stay at tasks and complete tasks.
- Sorting and classifying.
- Persistence to complete the course.

Sinking and Floating Experience

Here's what you'll need:

- Items to sink or float; this can be anything from inside and outside the home. Such as stones, leaves, sticks, Lego, weights, materials, lids etc.
- Container to collect objects.
- Shallow tub of water filled so you can see what floats on top and what sinks below.
- Paper & pencil to record what sinks or floats (can be drawn).

How to start:

- Prepare for the activity by discussing with your child about the concept sinking and floating; read the story "Who sank the Boat?" (If you have it at home).
- Search for items to use and collect low tub/bucket.

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Here's how to do it:

- Set up all your items ready.
- Fill low tub with enough water to show sinking and floating of objects.
- Demonstrate to your child how to make a prediction/ guess and encourage them to guess as well. "I wonder if this will float on top of the water or sink to the bottom. What do you think?"
- Place the item in the water and observe what happens.
- How many things sink? How many float?
- Try each object and record answer to see what sinks and what floats.
- Talk about the characteristics of each item: which object is biggest? Sort and classify the items: let's make a group of all the things that are soft or prickly, or small.
- Celebrate their efforts and what they have achieved.

Sinking and Floating Experience

