



## HELLO PARENTS,

Floating and sinking is a fun science concept for children to explore. Setting up a floating and sinking learning tray will encourage your child to play, experiment and discover how and why different objects float or sink when placed in water. In this newsletter, you will learn about a variety of sinking and floating experiments.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

#### SPLISH, SPLASH, SINK, AND FLOAT!

##### MATERIALS:

- Ice cube tray
- Water
- Plastic bin

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Pour water in the ice cube tray and freeze it.
- Once frozen, pour ice cubes in a bin, and encourage your child to explore them.
- Add water to the bin and have your child explore the floating ice cubes.

For more activities to do with your infant, [click here](#).

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### SINK OR FLOAT GAME

##### MATERIALS:

- Two plastic bins
- Plastic toys (small cars, ping pong balls, small Lego)
- Sponges
- Kitchen utensils (wooden spoon, tongs, sieve)

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Find a place to conduct the science experiment where your child can easily reach the bins.
- Gather the items that your child has an interest in and put them in one plastic bin.
- Fill the other plastic bin with water.
- Get your child involved and excited about this game by letting them toss the items in the plastic bin filled with water.
- Ask your child to retrieve the items from the water and return them back to the original bin. They will have fun doing it over and over again.

For more activities [click here](#).

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### SOAP POWERED BOAT

##### MATERIALS:

- Tray · Water · Dish soap
- Paper plate · Scissors · Toothpick

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Cut out a boat from the paper plate.
- Cut a small notch at the back of the boat in the middle of the rear edge.
- Place the boat near the edge of the tray full of water.
- Use a toothpick to drop a small amount of dish soap in the notch at the end of the boat. The boat should move forward.

For more fun activities [click here](#).

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### FLOAT AND SINK PREDICTIONS

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper · Pencil
- Different objects from around the house
- Water in a large bowl

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Collect different objects from around the house.
- Write "sink" and "float" on two sheets of paper.
- Predict which objects will sink or float and put them on the corresponding paper.
- Place the items in the water one by one and observe what happens.
- Record the results by placing the objects on the "sink" or "float" paper.
- After children have finished testing their objects, discuss the results using the following questions:

"How many of your predictions were correct?"

"Look at the pile of objects that sank. Describe them. Do they have anything in common with one another?"

"Look at the pile of objects that floated. Describe them. Do they have anything in common with one another?"

[Click here](#) to read the book "Who Sank the Boat?" by Pamela Allen.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### FLOATING AND SINKING POP CANS

##### MATERIALS:

- Large bucket or container
- Water
- Unopened pop cans (use a variety of pop, some regular and some diet)

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Begin by filling your container with water. The water should be deep enough so you can easily tell which cans are floating and which ones are sinking.
- Slowly place each can into the water one at a time.
- Observe the cans as you place them in the water. Which ones float? Which ones sink?
- After all the cans are in the water, try to figure out why some of the cans float and others sink.

[Click here](#) to check out why some pop cans float and others sink.

For an additional sink or float experiment [click here](#).

### WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO [CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG](mailto:CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG)

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Use items you have at home to experiment and explore.
- Value your child's questions.
- Explore and find the answers together.
- Give children time and space to explore.
- Encourage children to record their observations.