



HELLO PARENTS,

As the sun shines in summer, what better way to cool ourselves than by playing with water! Not only is it fun, but playing with water is educational and has a range of benefits for your child's emotional and social development. It can improve your child's physical, cognitive, and fine motor skills. Adding various materials to the water play encourages children to manipulate them and build their scientific and problem-solving abilities. This newsletter will provide you with fun and interactive water activities for you and your family to enjoy throughout the summer.

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

DOWN IN THE DEEP BLUE SEA

MATERIALS:

- Fish toys
- Plastic container or tray
- Towel
- Mirror

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to "Down in the Deep Blue Sea".
- Put a towel on the floor. Place the container filled with water on top of the towel.
- Place the fish toys around the container filled with water, and have your infant sit next to them.
- Begin singing "Down in the Deep Blue Sea" song, and add one fish in the water.
- Continue to sing and add fish to the water. Encourage your infant to splash the water and grab the fish.

[Click here](#) to learn how to make "Baby Waterbeds".

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

FINE MOTOR WATER PLAY

MATERIALS:

- Basters
- Pouring utensils (spoons, ladles, cups, etc.)
- Container
- Towel

DIRECTIONS:

- Put the towel on the floor and place the container on top of it. Add water inside the container.
- Place the pouring utensils next to the container, and encourage your child to explore the water using their hands and the pouring utensils.
- Take the baster and model how to squeeze the bulb to suck in the water and then release the water. Afterwards, encourage your child to try.

[Click here](#) to learn how to play "Pom-Pom Squeeze Water Play".

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

SPONGE BALLS

MATERIALS:

- 2-3 sponges
- Elastic bands
- Scissors
- A large container
- Water

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut the sponges into strips.
- Bunch a few sponge strips together and place an elastic band around the middle.
- Fill a large container with water. Put all bunches of sponge strips in it and place the container in an outdoor setting, for example a backyard, a patio, etc.
- Encourage your child to play and get creative with the soaked bunches of sponge strips.

[Click here](#) to learn how to play "Water Freeze Tag".

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

WATER WALL

MATERIALS:

- Duct tape
- Materials for water wall (PVC tubes, funnel, recycled plastic bottles/containers)

DIRECTIONS:

- Plan a configuration of your materials in your water wall, and ensure there are openings in the materials for water to flow. [Click here](#) for reference.
- Use duct tape to attach the materials to a wall.
- Have your child pour water into the top material in the water wall. Watch as water moves through the different materials in the wall.

[Click here](#) to learn how to make "Elephant Toothpaste".

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

LEGO WATER WHEEL

MATERIALS:

- Lego pieces
- A large tray
- Duct tape
- Water

DIRECTIONS:

- On a large tray, secure a few pieces of Lego base plates together using duct tape. [Click here](#) for reference.
- Using your imagination, creatively build a water wheel propeller along with other construction details using Legos. For example: a bridge, a tower, etc.
- Pour water directly over the water wheel propeller to see it in action!

[Click here](#) to learn how to make a "PVC Pipe Water Toy".



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A TIP FOR TODAY

- Enhance your child's motor skills by encouraging them to lift, pour, and splash water.
- Add materials like sand, ice, soap, and slime to encourage your child to explore using their senses.
- Encourage your child to communicate what they are doing as they are playing with the water to help build their social and communication skills.
- Water play releases energy! Encourage your child to splash water, jump in puddles, and run through a sprinkler.
- [Click here](#) for a guide to Windsor-Essex summer splash pads.