

Sink or Float

Experimenting with different shapes, materials and objects and how they float or sink teaches children to question how things work and be curious thinkers. Crafting boats and testing how to make them float or sink develops valuable problem-solving skills.

What you need:

- A large/tall container, tub, or sink filled with water
- Everyday items from around the house or garden – eg balls, blocks, leaves, twigs, pegs,
- Things to make boats with – eg. plastic picnic ware or takeaway containers, alfoil and playdough

What to do:

1. Fill a large/tall container with water
2. Let children scavenge for items to experiment with in the water
3. Feel each item, predict what will happen when it is placed in the water
4. Sort the objects into those that sink and those that float
5. Place the item in the water and observe what happens
6. Use plastic picnic, takeaway container or folded alfoil to make boat of all shapes and sizes.
7. Watch how they each float
8. Put different toys in the boat one at a time (i.e. Choose plastic toys they're currently loving)
9. Experiment with how many things you can put into your boat before it sinks.

Water Safety

Never leave children unattended around water.

Creative Tip

Explore sinking and floating next time you're in the bath. Read Pamela Allen's book, "Who Sank the Boat?"