

Sink and Float

You and your child experiment with objects which may either sink or float. You also make predictions and observations, and then sort the objects into groups.

Science Connections

Predicting whether an object will sink or float

Experimenting to see if objects sink or float

Observing to see what sinkers and floaters have in common

Sorting objects into groups of sinkers and floaters



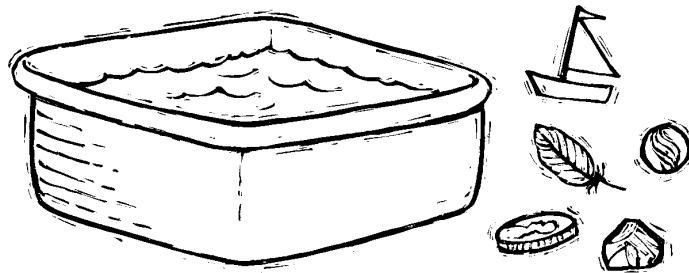
What's Needed

A collection of small objects: heavy objects, light objects, objects that are made of different materials such as plastic, wood and Styrofoam, objects with holes and objects that have different shapes.

You'll also need a tub or pan of water.

How To Do It

1. Together, explore the objects. Put the objects in the water, one by one. Talk together about what you notice.
2. Once you've had time to experiment with sinking and floating, sort the collection into sinkers and floaters, using your sorting loops. Are there some objects that both sink and float? Create a category for those objects as well.



3. After you have experimented with sinking and floating, introduce more objects and challenge your child to make predictions about which will sink or float. Test the predictions.
4. Use a piece of paper to make a "Sinkers and Floaters" chart. You can write the words, or your child can make pictures of the objects that either sink or float.

SINKERS	FLOATERS
stone penny marble	toy boat feather

Another Idea to Try

Encourage your child to experiment with sinking and floating at bath time.

