



Young children naturally build knowledge by being curious about the world around them.

When you participate in science-based activities with your children, you can share their sense of wonder about the natural world. They'll develop self-confidence as they ask and answer their own questions. The bathtub is a perfect laboratory for experiments with water, whether that means boat design or fluid physics—and the mess is well contained.

Pool Noodle Waterfall

Children enjoy pouring water and watching it drip through tubes and hoses. Create your own fountain out of dollar store pool noodles and tape.

What you need

- Pool noodles
- Duct tape or packaging tape
- funnels
- Small plastic measuring cups or containers
- Buckets
- Plastic spoons

Cognitive Skills

- Creative thinking
- Risk taking
- Tactile exploration
- Motor skills
- Gain knowledge
- Curiosity

What to do

While the tub is dry, collect pool noodles, funnels, plastic cups and a roll of tape. Tape the noodles on the wall near the tub (use them whole, or cut them into shorter sections).

Now fill the tub with water and add scoopers and pourers (and your child). Pour water into the holes of the pool noodles using cups and funnels.

Key Questions

- Where does the water go?
- What makes it move?
- Can you make it move uphill?

What next?

- What other objects could you tape to the wall for your fountain?
- Try a similar activity outside when the weather is warm. You can use zip ties to attach pool noodles or hoses to a fence, deck chairs or trees.

How to get most out of your explorations:

- **Dress for the mess**
Science explorations can be messy.
- **Take your time**
Play for as long as the activity holds your child's interest. Don't rush towards the "right" answer.
- **Be curious**
Ask "what would happen if..." and then find out. Let your child's questions guide you.

Books, Resources, Games and Shows

Firetruck Fred: Bath Books that Float by Debbie Rivers-Moore and Lynne Moulding (ISBN: 10-1438072228)

The Tub People by Pam Conrad and Richard Egielski (ISBN: 10- 078570906)

Water, Water Everywhere: A Splash and Giggle Bath Book by Julie Aigner-Clark and Nadeem Zaidi (ISBN: 10- 0786819111)

Danny Digger: Bath Books That Float by Debbie Rivers Moore and Lynne Moulding (ISBN 10- 1438072228)



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Floating Boats

What makes some things float and some things sink? Try a few simple boat designs or invent your own.

What you need

- Aluminum foil
- Plastic bottle caps
- 3 corks
- Toothpick
- 1 elastic
- Paper for a sail

Websites

peepandthebigwideworld.com/media/pdf/peep-family-letters.pdf

peepandthebigwideworld.com/activities/anywhere-activities/wherewater/

peepandthebigwideworld.com/activities/anywhere-activities/sinkfloater/

scienceworld.ca/bslh (Wet and Dry, Gadgets and Contraptions)

What to do

1. Start with a piece of foil about 15cm by 15cm. Put the piece of foil in the water. Does it float or sink?
2. Shape the foil into a boat. Does it float or sink? Will it carry a small weight like a pebble or a penny?
3. Use a plastic bottle cap as a boat. Try floating it upside down and right side up. Which works better?
4. Make a sailboat out of corks:
 - Wrap the elastic band around all three corks, to hold them together.
 - Make a small sail and attach a toothpick mast to the sail.
 - Slip the mast in between the corks.
 - Put your boat in the water. Does it float? Blow on the sail and make the boat move.

Key Questions

- Which boats worked the best?
- What shape makes a good boat?
- What else could we use to make a boat?
- How can you make the boat move faster?

What next?

- What other materials can you use to make a boat that floats? Try gluing popsicle sticks together, modifying a plastic container or modelling a boat out of plasticine. Which designs float best?
- Add pennies or pebbles to see how much weight the boat will hold.

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