

Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home – Number 2



Floating Fun



Children love playing with water. Not only is it great fun but they can learn so much through 'skiddling'. This activity can be done inside or outside.

Children learn so much more when they are allowed to experiment and discover things for themselves. Adults can help by saying "I wonder what will happen if....."

What do I need?

- A bowl, basin, or bucket.
- Some water – warm water is nicer to play with!
- Small everyday items found around the house or garden that are ok to get wet

Here's a great song to get started:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/do-you-know-sinking-and-floating-song?collection=maddies-do-you-know-songs>

What will your child learn from this play?

- Mathematical language for volume, size and weight
- Making choices
- Fine motor skills
- Prediction
- Problem solving

What do we do?

- Put some water in a bowl, basin or bucket. Your child can help. Agree the amount with your child using words such as 'more', 'less' and 'enough'.
- Help your child to find some interesting items from inside or outside which will easily fit into the bowl, basin or bucket.
- Allow your child to find out if the items float or sink by placing them in the water, preferably one at a time – but your child might have a different idea.
- You might want to talk about:
 - Which items float slowly or quickly
 - Which items sink straight or move from side to side when they're sinking
- You may find that your child is more interested in simply playing with the water and the items they have collected. That's fine! Your child will still learn lots through playing and talking with you.

How can you take it further?

- Gather more items and encourage your child to predict whether the items will float or sink.
- See if your child can use a floating item to stop another item from sinking.
- Have a sinking race! Choose 2 items that sink and find out which sinks the fastest.

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it