

# Sink or Float?

## Primary Objectives

11d. Shows curiosity and motivation

## Why It's Important

Playing with water gives children an opportunity to learn through their senses of touch, sight, and hearing. This activity will allow your child to actively explore the concepts of floating and sinking, and will help her learn about cause and effect as she works with different materials.

## Materials

Water; floating boats; sink, bucket, or bathtub; pennies

## What You Do

1. Fill the sink, bucket, or bathtub with water and gather the other materials.
2. Invite your child to explore the boats and pennies with the water. After she has had time to explore, encourage her to experiment with the items. *I wonder how many pennies you can place on this boat before it sinks. Would you like to find out?*
3. Invite her to count aloud as she adds pennies to the boat. Encourage her to make predictions as she experiments about how slowly or quickly the boats will sink. *That boat sank slowly when you added the pennies. What do you think will happen when you put pennies on this boat?*
4. Continue the activity for as long as your child is interested.
5. You can extend this activity by allowing your child to test other objects. Invite your child to predict which objects will sink or float and what will happen when she places smaller objects on top of larger ones.