

# DO SCIENCE TOGETHER!

Try making predictions about how materials will behave under different conditions.

Example Activity:

## Sink or Float?

Turn your child's next bath into a science experiment! Collect items that can get wet (e.g., balls, rocks, plastic toys, blocks). Work with your child to predict whether each item will sink or float before placing them into the tub to test your guess.

**Bonus: Do ice cubes sink or float?**

*You can also try this activity outside in a bucket of water for hours of summer fun.*

Use tools to interact with materials, collect information, and solve problems in new ways.

Example Activity:

## Ice Excavation

Use everyday kitchen items as tools to melt ice! First, freeze some small toys into an ice cube tray. Little plastic animals work well! Next, you'll need table salt to sprinkle over the ice, cups of warm water to pour on the ice, and spoons to break the ice apart. Add tweezers, popsicle sticks, droppers, and/or magnifying lenses if you have them! Invite your child to use all of these tools to melt the ice and free the toy frozen inside.

## MORE RESOURCES

**Science exploration in your home**  
[sciencenter.org/resources-for-home](http://sciencenter.org/resources-for-home)

**Peep and the Big Wide World**  
[peepandthebigwideworld.com](http://peepandthebigwideworld.com)

**Houston Basics**  
[cmhouston.org/houston-basics](http://cmhouston.org/houston-basics)

**Elementary GLOBE**  
[globe.gov/web/elementary-globe](http://globe.gov/web/elementary-globe)

**Boston Basics**  
[boston.thebasics.org](http://boston.thebasics.org)



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# DOING SCIENCE IS:

**Exploring**  
**Making observations & predictions**  
**Using tools**  
**Problem-solving**  
**Categorizing & measuring**

## WHILE EXPLORING:

### Ask open-ended questions:

*How does it feel/look/smell?*  
*What do you notice about...?*  
*What will happen if...?*  
*How can we find out?*

### Make observations and comparisons:

*Which materials are bumpy?*  
*Which are hard?*  
*Which is shinier, felt or foil?*

### Ask for non-verbal responses:

*Point to where you think the water will go.*  
*Show me how we can test if the sponge is wet.*

### Model how to use new tools:

*Spray bottles, droppers, sponges*

### Pose challenges!

*Can you use the dropper to move the water from here to there?*  
*What could you do to fill the [petri dish] pond with water?*

### Narrate what your child is doing out loud:

*I see that you're pouring that water very carefully.*  
*You're making it rain on the mountain!*

### Tell stories and use your imaginations together!

**Repetition is your friend!**  
Doing the same thing over and over helps kids understand cause and effect.



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