

Recognizing Same and Different

Sink and Float

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

What's the BIG Idea?

Predicting whether an object will sink or float

Experimenting to see if objects sink or float

Observing to see what's the same or different about the objects

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. 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.

*Gordito and I love to chomp on Maria's kitchen scraps, the more the better. But sometimes we get tired of the **same** old slop. When we want something **different**, Gordito snorts and snuffles and digs and turns in circles until Juanita hears him and sneaks us leftovers from her school lunchbox. Maria can't figure out why Gordito's getting bigger than me. Can you? It's simple: we like the **same** food but our appetites are **different**! What else is different about us? What do we have in common?*

