



Sink or Float

Sesame Street Little Discoverers: Big Fun with Science, Math, and More is a resource to help you and your child explore STEM.

Remember, it's okay to not know the answers to all of her questions. Model a sense of curiosity by saying something like, "That's a great question! I don't know the answer but let's find out together."

HELLO, FAMILIES!

Your child is full of curiosity. She is always observing, questioning, testing her thinking, and collecting information. These are important critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that help set her up for success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

HELP YOUR CHILD TALK ABOUT SINKING AND FLOATING

- » Something that sinks goes below the top of the water.
- » Something that floats stays on top of the water.
- » All objects are made of different materials.

TRY THIS AT HOME

Pick and choose the activities that work best for you and your child.

Let's Talk. Use the words sink, float, and materials as many times as you can this week! Say things like, "I wonder if the soap will float in the tub." "What material is this toy made of?"

Explore in the Tub. During bath time, provide plastic containers and cups, combs, blocks, metal spoons, and sponges for your child to explore which objects sink or float. Guess which shapes and materials will sink or float before you drop them into the water. Try dropping a cup that's empty, and then fill it with water to see what happens.

In the Kitchen. Give your child a bowl to help you wash fruits like an apples, oranges, lemons, or limes. Ask your child to make a hypothesis: Which ones will sink and which ones will float? Investigate by placing them in the water.



For more fun ideas, videos, and games, check out sesamestreet.org/STEM on your computer or mobile device.



SINK OR FLOAT

Make It Sink!

TUBE EXPLORATION

Use paper towel tubes to explore sinking and floating. Have your child investigate whether a tube will sink or float in water. What happens if he wraps the tube tightly in aluminum foil and then places it in the water? What happens if he unwraps the tube and places it back in the water?

WATCH "ROCCO'S BOAT"

In the video, Elmo and Zoe design a boat to help Rocco, Zoe's pet rock, float. They test different materials and designs, and eventually solve the problem by combining materials that float to build a boat for Rocco.

ACTIVITY

Try different ways to get a plastic cup to sink.

MATERIALS

- » sink, tub, or bucket of water
- » large plastic cup
- » different items to fill the cup (rocks, cotton balls, water, soap, washcloths)
- » Activity Chart
- » crayons

STEPS

1. Place the cup in water and observe that it floats. Feel what it's like to push down on it.
2. Have your child make a hypothesis about which objects will help make the cup sink. Have fun exploring ways to sink the cup! Do any materials make the cup go under the surface of the water part-way? What about all the way?
3. Then, report and record your findings. Ask, "How did we make a floating cup sink?" "What new things did we find out from our test?"



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Make It Sink!

Have your child draw what she puts inside the cup. Then have her draw a line above, below, or across the cup to show where the top of the water was.
