Play to Learn

Float Like a Boat

What?

Explore science and math concepts with this "sink or float" activity. Use items found in and around your home (or out in nature) to investigate buoyancy by dropping them into a tub filled with water. How many items will sink and how many will float?

How?

- go on a walk and collect a variety of objects found in nature (leaves, rocks, shells, sticks, cleaned feathers, pine cones, etc.)
- talk to your child about “respecting nature” and taking only things from the ground
- once back home, invite your child to take each item from their collection and predict whether the item will “float like a boat” or sink in water
- pour some water into a clear container (if you don’t have a clear tub any large container will work, even the kitchen sink)
- have your child drop the item into the water and observe what happens
- sort the collection of objects into two groups: the group of objects which float and the group of objects which sink

Why?

*promotes social and emotional development
*provides opportunity to make connections with nature
*initiates ideas and explorations through questions and investigation
*develops reasoning and sensory processing skills
*develops fine motor and hand-eye coordination skills