

Float and sink water science

You will need:

- Large tubs of water (ideally clear tubs so that children can look in from the sides to observe their experiments)
- A collection of objects and natural materials, for example: leaves, sticks, plastic items, metal items/utensils, foil, a few plastic bottles filled with varying amounts of water

Steps:

1. Fill up a few large plastic tubs with water and place them on low tables or benches.
2. Place your collection of objects and materials near the water container.
3. **PREDICT** - Invite children to pick up an object, feel it and make a prediction about what will happen when they place it in the water. Will it float? Will it sink? Will it float for a little while then sink? Ask the children **WHY** they have made that prediction (don't correct them at this point, just allow them to talk about their predictions).
4. **OBSERVE** - Place the objects/materials in the water one by one, and encourage the children to share their observations - what can you see happening? Did it float? Did it sink?
5. **EXPLAIN** - Encourage children to explain **WHY** they think the objects float or sink... share ideas, prompting them to use words such as heavy, light, small, big...

Pack up - encourage the children to water the garden by scooping the water out of the large tubs using small watering cans or containers.

