

Do science from home: **BUOYANCY!**

Materials



- Tub, sink or large bowl to partially fill with water
- Assorted objects to test such as: coin, paper clip, Lego, shell, balloon (inflated or deflated), pencil, tangerine (to test both with peel on and without), pinecone, sponge

1 Begin doing science by introducing our new concept

Ask your child about swimming, bath time, etc., and make sure that they understand that when something goes to the bottom, it is sinking. When it stays on the top, it floats. "An object has buoyancy if it floats and does not have buoyancy if it sinks." Ask your child if they can think of any examples of things that float or examples of things that sink. Explain that usually heavier objects will sink, but sometimes this isn't the case. A big boat can float because it is filled with air, which floats above water.



2 Let's do science by OBSERVING!

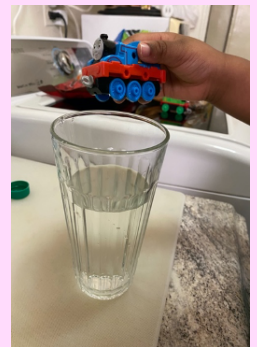
Have your child do science and use his/her eyes to observe the first object they drop into the water. Is the object heavy or light? Is it full of air or solid?

3 Let's do science by PREDICTING!

Usually heavy and solid objects sink in water, but sometimes this isn't the case. A big boat can float and has buoyancy because it is filled with air, which is lighter than water. Have your child do science and guess what will happen to the first object. Will it sink or float? Is the object buoyant or not buoyant?

4 Let's do science by CHECKING our guesses

Have your child do science and test their predictions by dropping the first object into the water. Does the object sink or float? Is the object buoyant? Was their prediction correct?



5 OBSERVE, PREDICT, and CHECK with more objects

Let your child continue to do science by dropping different objects in the water. As you introduce each new object, continue going through the steps of observing, predicting and checking!

