Water Exploration

We Skoolhouse

Water Exploration (What's Included!)

- Introduction to the Unit of Investigation
- Materials Needed for Activities
- Vocabulary Words
- Guiding Questions
- Songs to Sing
- Books to Read
- Tips to Reinforce the Unit in Everyday Experience
- Know Wonder Learn (KWL) Chart
- Word Web (Expansion of Concepts Relative to Unit of Investigation)
- Expanded Play with Unit of Investigation
- 12 Activities (Including Materials Needed, Directions to Follow, and Targeted Learning Objectives)

Introduction: Water Exploration

Ready to dive in?! No, really! Because we're all about water! Water is an exceptional substance that is not only necessary for life but also provides a wealth of holistic learning for children, enriching every aspect of their development in engaging ways. Whether you're a teacher or a parent, understanding the significance of water in education can open up a world of creative and meaningful learning experiences.

As educators and caregivers, we recognize that children thrive through sensory-rich, hands-on experiences. Water becomes our ally in creating these impactful learning moments. From exploring water's properties to encouraging critical thinking about its purposes and uses, and delving into different states of water (solid, liquid, gas), your students or children will forge connections with water, enhancing their creative, scientific, and mathematical thinking.

When administering activities, it's important to re-offer the same activities several times over. This allows children the opportunity to make deep connections, comprehend uses and properties, while contributing to mastery and memory recall. And keep in mind that learning is not confined to a specific time, place, or activity. It's an ongoing journey where connections are woven through daily interactions and engagement with the people, places, and materials that surround us.

Materials

Our suggested list of materials are items that will supplement the activities and experiences in your packet.

- Materials for Water Table;
  - Small bowls, measuring cups, sponges, pipettes/droppers, funnels. Recommended but not necessary: Clear tubing
- 3+ Bottles of liquid watercolors (At least 3 colors)
- Thin paintbrushes
- Pack of watercolor paper
- Pack of oil pastels
- One bottle of oil (e.g. baby oil, cooking oil, etc.)
- Clear and empty bottles (to make sensory bottles)
- Optional: glue gun to secure the cap once the bottle/s are completed
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels
- Cardboard
- Ice cube tray
- Popsicle sticks
- Pack of Letters (Magnetic, plastic, wooden, printouts, etc.)

Vocabulary Words

New & relative vocabulary words to incorporate in everyday experiences: In addition to incorporating the vocabulary words provided below, try to speak as you go! Talking to children as you go is one of the most powerful ways to expand upon receptive and expressive language development. The more language children are exposed to (when used in meaningful and relative context) the greater it contributes to language and future literacy skills.

- Water cycle
- Liquid
- Solid
- Gas
- Meteorologist
- Weather
- Fog
- Mist
- Steam
- Boil
- Ice
- Icicles
- Hail
- Blizzard
- Hurricane
- Temperatur
- Freeze
- Melt
- Thaw
- Dissolve
- Float
- Sink
- Soak
- Buoyancy
- Flow
- Conflate
- Absorb
- Repel
- Saturate
- Splash
- Wet
- Dry
- Force
- Faucet
- Dense
- Molecule
- Empty
- Drenched
- Shallow
- Deep

Guiding Questions

Guiding questions play a vital role in emergent curriculum as they spark curiosity, promote inquiry, and guide the direction of learning experiences based on children's interests and developmental needs. By posing open-ended questions that encourage exploration and discovery, we can tap into children's natural curiosity and foster a deeper understanding of concepts. These questions serve as a catalyst for meaningful learning experiences, empowering children to actively engage with their environment, make connections, and construct knowledge.

Guiding questions also help scaffold learning opportunities, providing a framework for observation, assessment, and reflection on children's interests, skills, and growth. They promote collaboration and dialogue, fostering a dynamic learning community where ideas are shared, perspectives are valued, and creativity thrives. Guiding questions honor children's voices, interests, and agency in shaping their learning journey.

- Where can we find water?
- How does water change throughout the day?
- What happens to water when it changes temperature?
- Where does the water go when it disappears down the drain?
- How do animals use water in nature?
- Why do we need water to drink every day?
- What do we notice about water when it's raining?
- What happens when we put things in water?
- How does water help us?
- What do you think would happen if it rained every day?

Songs to Sing

Singing with children is a multifaceted tool for development, enhancing language skills through exposure to varied vocabulary and rhythms. The rhythmic and melodic nature aids memory, making learning engaging. Beyond cognitive benefits, singing promotes emotional expression, fostering a holistic growth experience.

- The Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Slipper Fish

Featured Song: The Water Cycle Song

(Verse 1)
Water, water, everywhere,
In the air and on the ground.
It moves in a cycle, round and round,
Up in the sky and back down.

(Verse 2)
Evaporation, first in line,
Sunshine heats the water, it starts to climb.
Into the sky as vapor so light,
Forming clouds, a wondrous sight.

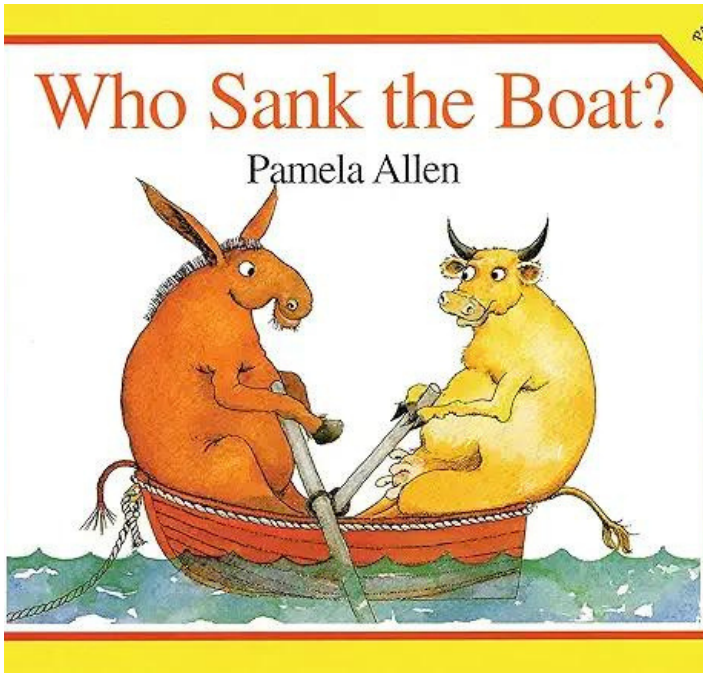
(Verse 3)
Condensation, clouds take shape,
Tiny water droplets, they reshape.
Gathered together, big and small,
They're ready to let the raindrops fall.

(Verse 4)
Precipitation, rain or snow,
Falling to the Earth, nice and slow.
Into the rivers, lakes, and sea,
Joining the cycle, endlessly.

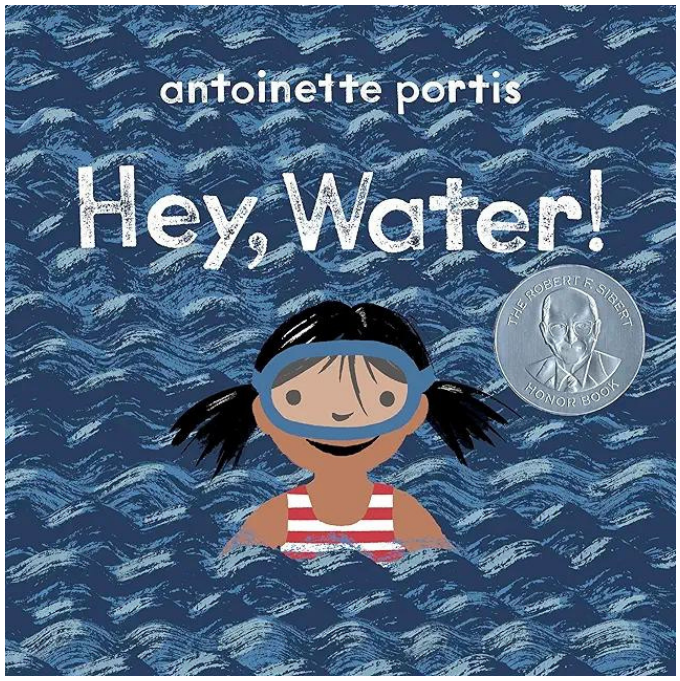
(Verse 5)
The water cycle, oh, the water cycle,
A never-ending, amazing dance.
From clouds up high to the river's flow,
It's a journey we all should know.

Books to Read

We select two books to support your unit of investigation - it's important to go slow and re-read the same books several times for greater comprehension and connection building. You can read the recommended book before they begin the hands-on work. We understand all children have different preferences and interests when it comes to books (and everything else), so please find our supplemental reads that can replace or add to the suggested books below:

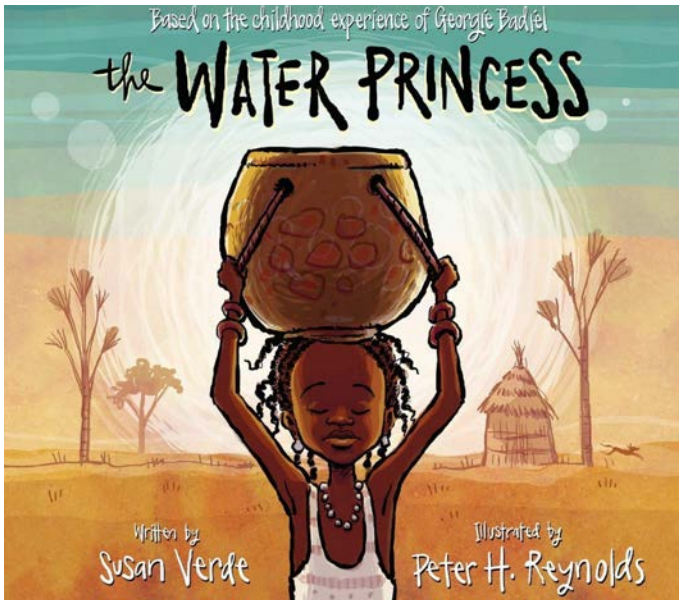


Who Sank the Boat, by Pamela Allen

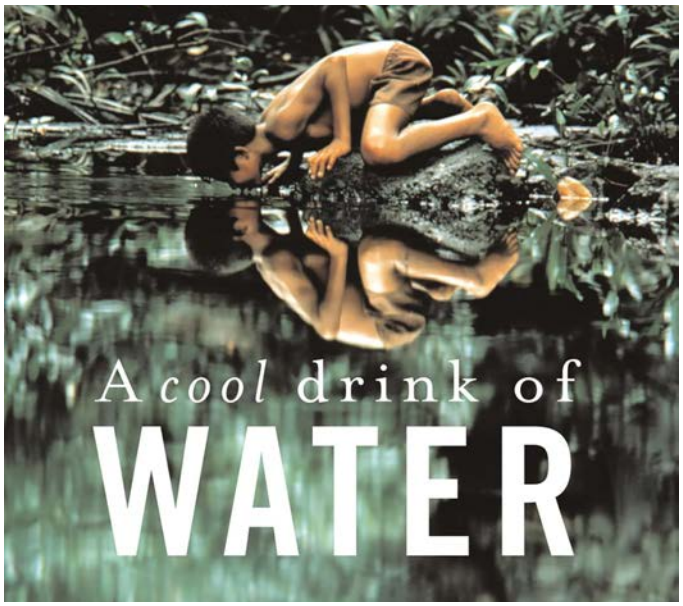


Hey, Water!, by Antionette Portis

Supplemental Reads:



The Water Princess, by Susan Verde



A Cool Drink of Water, by Barbara Kerley

Tips to Reinforce the Unit in Everyday Experiences:

Botany:

- Incorporate a plant activity using seeds and pots to **teach the plant life cycle and water's role.** Make it a joint project by buying materials, decorating a pot, and involving children in planting seeds, emphasizing responsibility.

Kitchen Science and Culinary Connection:

- I**ntegrate water into cooking activities** for hands-on learning of math and science. Involve children in the kitchen, discussing the science of boiling and steaming while emphasizing water's importance in cooking.

Chores as Learning Opportunities:

- **Tie water themes into daily tasks,** connecting activities like watering plants to broader water concepts. Engage children in age-appropriate chores, emphasizing water's role in cleanliness and fostering responsibility.

Exploring Water Environments Together:

- **Organize a field trip to a local body of water,** encouraging observation and discussion. Plan an outing to a water body, incorporating nature walks, picnics, and artistic expression with a sketch pad.

- **Aquarium visits offer insights into water ecosystems,** sparking discussions about water conservation and aquatic life. Embrace these opportunities for both educational and enjoyable experiences.

KWL (Know, Wonder , Learn) Chart

When kicking off a new investigation, it's recommended to create a large KWL (Know, Wonder, Learn) Chart for you and your children's reference (example below).

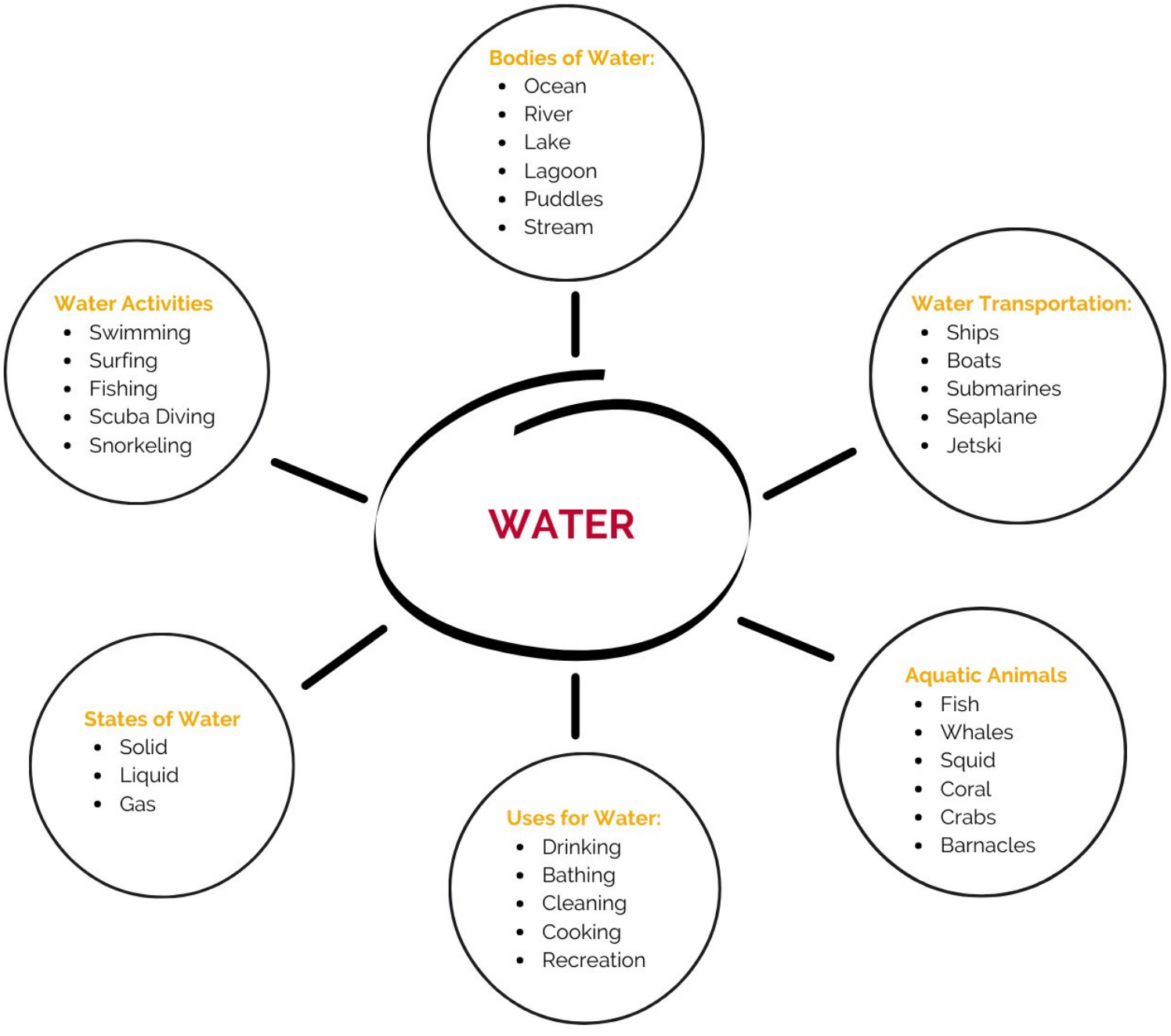
You can draw one up on a large sheet of oaktag or easel paper. Introduce a topic by prompting "what do you know about _____?" Once children have shared their prior knowledge, invite them to consider what they'd like to learn about the topic.

This running document is a place to guide your learning, prompting children to think more critically about the subject, while also formulating their own theories and ideas. Learning is not limited to one time and space, but rather, is an ongoing event. Add to this chart as thoughts, questions & revelations emerge over time.

Know	**W**onder	**L**earn

Word Web: Water

Word webs are another powerful tool to support connection-making, and connection-making is the core of learning! Word webs invite adults and children to think more critically about a specific topic, all while expanding upon research and ideas. While the below is an example of different directions your investigations may go, it is not limited to only these subcategories, but rather, just meant to get the wheels turning - see what else you and your children can come up with and expand upon!



Expanded Play

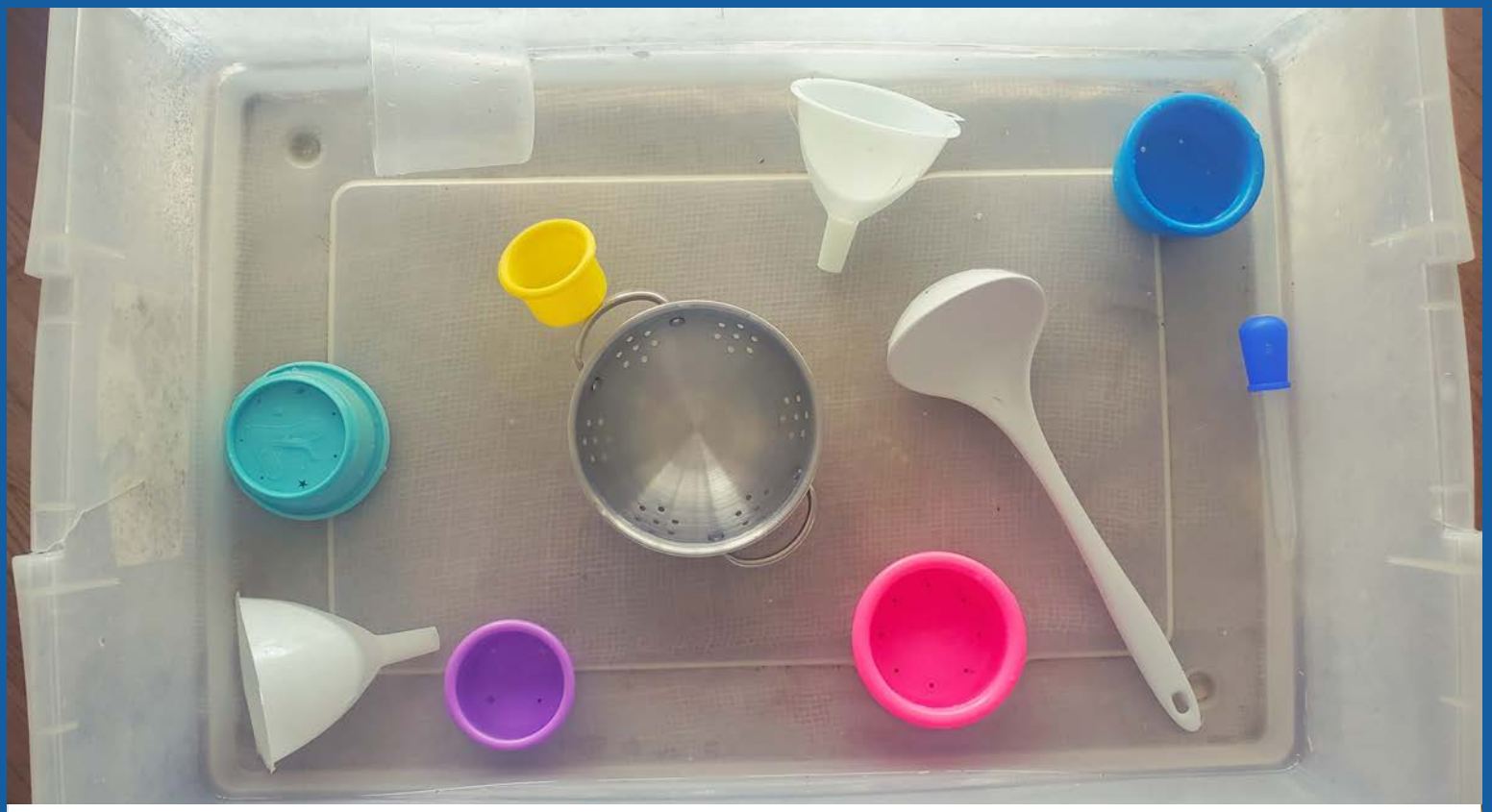
Learning concepts are best adopted when children can make everyday and tangible connections. Support your child's emergent knowledge and experiences by incorporating the topic in different areas of play and exploration.

- Car wash (toy cars or real vehicle)
- Baby doll wash station/ toy cleaning station
- Dishwashing (in pretend or practical kitchen)
- Laundromat / Clothes washing & folding station
- Incorporate Umbrellas, Rain boots, and hats as dress-up clothing in dramatic play space
- Create a weather chart with children so they can transform into daily meteorologists
- Window and table washing
- Utilize a large cardboard box and transform it into a boat.

- Add ocean animal toys to the block area, as well as blue sheets of paper (construction, cellophane, etc.).
- Fill and add a tinker tray with ocean themed loose parts (seashells, sea glass, rocks, etc.) to your child's play space.
- Add real life images of bridges to your child's play space to inspire bridge building.
- Add real life images of ice castles/structures to your child's play space to inspire ice castle construction. Consider wrapping unit blocks with white paper.
- Create water canals/passageways within a water table with magna tiles, pipes, etc.

- Fill spray bottles with water to engage in water spray art (indoor or outdoor). Option: add water colors.
- welcome children to plant seeds and water their plants accordingly.
- Keep watercolor paint and paper accessible
- Add 1/4 water to a ziplock bag and tap it to the window. Keep it there for several days to observe a mini water cycle in a bag.

ACTIVITIES



Exploring Water

MATERIALS

- Large bin/container or sensory table
- Water
- Materials to support water play (e.g. measuring cup, about 3 small bowls/jars/containers, funnels, droppers/basters, etc.)
- Mops, towels, and/or butcher paper to support clean-up.

DIRECTIONS

Fill a large shallow bin (at least halfway up) with water.

- Add some objects that support water play, such as cups, bowls, funnels, basters, etc.
- Ideally, you can set up the water table in a "yes" space, meaning your child has the opportunity to really splash the water as they see fit. If you do not have an outdoor space to utilize, consider adding butcher paper and towels around a space in the home where you feel comfortable with water splashing.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Sensory Exploration:** Children will engage in sensory exploration as they interact with water, experiencing its temperature, texture, and fluidity. This sensory-rich experience stimulates their senses and promotes sensory integration.
- **STEM Concepts:** Through water play, children will explore fundamental STEM concepts such as buoyancy, displacement, and surface tension. They will observe how objects float or sink, investigate water flow and movement, and learn about the properties of liquids.
- **Scientific Inquiry:** Children engage in scientific inquiry as they explore water properties and conduct simple experiments. They make predictions, observe cause-and-effect relationships, and draw conclusions based on their observations and experiences.
- **Emotional Regulation:** Water play provides a calming and soothing sensory experience, promoting emotional regulation and relaxation. Children can release pent-up energy, reduce stress, and regulate their emotions through water play activities.
- **Motor Skills Development:** Children will enhance both gross and fine motor skills through water play activities. Gross motor skills are developed as they engage in activities such as splashing and pouring water, which involve large muscle groups and whole-body movements. Fine motor skills are refined through activities like pouring water into containers, squeezing water toys, and using small scoops or cups to manipulate water, promoting precision, hand-eye coordination, and finger dexterity.

Sink or Float?

MATERIALS

- Large bin/container or sensory table
- Various objects (e.g., plastic toys, wooden blocks, paper clips, aluminum foil, rubber balls, etc.)
  Writing materials for recording observations
  Towels/mop for clean-up

DIRECTIONS

- Fill the container/bin/table with water.
- Choose a variety of objects for experimentation.
- You can invite children to choose materials too!
- Ask children to predict if each object will sink or float
- Ask why they think is and record predictions.
- Have children place objects in water.
- Invite children to record observations through drawing or writing. Gather & discuss findings, comparing predictions with outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Scientific Inquiry:** Children will engage in scientific inquiry as they explore the concepts of buoyancy and density through hands-on experimentation. They will formulate hypotheses about which objects will sink or float and test their predictions through systematic observation and experimentation.
- **Critical Thinking:** Through observation and analysis, children will develop critical thinking skills as they evaluate the factors influencing whether an object sinks or floats. They will identify variables such as object size, shape, and material composition, and analyze how these factors affect buoyancy.
- **Scientific Method:** Children will learn about the scientific method and the process of inquiry-based science. They will engage in systematic observation, experimentation, data collection, and analysis, gaining an understanding of how scientists investigate and explain natural phenomena.
- **Curiosity and Wonder:** Through the sink and float experiment, children will cultivate curiosity and wonder about the natural world. They will develop a sense of wonderment as they observe unexpected outcomes, ask questions, and seek explanations for the phenomena they observe, fostering a lifelong love of science and exploration.

Things That SINK

MATERIALS

- Large bin or sensory table
- Various objects (e.g., metal spoon, glass marble, rocks, ceramic mug, heavy plastic toy)
- Writing materials for recording observations
- Towels for Cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Fill the container/bin/table with water
- Encourage children to predict and pick items **they believe will sink.** Have them share why they think this. Record predictions.
- Have children place each object in the water, observing and noting if it sinks or stays afloat.
- Children record their observations through drawing or writing.
- Gather and discuss findings, comparing predictions with actual outcomes. Ask questions such as, "What similarities or differences do you notice among objects that sink?"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Scientific Inquiry:** Nurture curiosity and exploration as children investigate why some objects sink in water based on factors like weight and material.
- **Critical Thinking:** Stimulate critical thinking skills by prompting children to analyze their predictions and consider the properties of the objects that led to sinking.
- **Language Development:** Enhance vocabulary and communication skills through discussions about the experiment. Encourage children to express their observations and share their thoughts with peers.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Improve fine motor skills as children handle various objects, placing them carefully in the water to observe their buoyancy.
- **Data Recording:** Introduce basic recording skills, encouraging children to document their observations systematically. This skill lays the foundation for future scientific investigations and data analysis.

Things That FLOAT

MATERIALS

- Large bin or sensory table
- Various objects (e.g., paper towel rolls, balls, legos, feathers, etc.) Writing materials for recording observations
- Towels for Cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Fill the container/bin/table with water
- Encourage children to predict and pick items **they believe will float.** Have them share why they think this. Record predictions.
- Have children place each object in the water, observing and noting if it sinks or stays afloat.
- Children record their observations through drawing or writing.
- Gather and discuss findings, comparing predictions with actual outcomes. Ask questions such as, "What similarities or differences do you notice among objects that float?"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Scientific Inquiry:** Foster curiosity and exploration as children investigate why certain objects float in water, considering factors like shape and buoyancy.
- **Critical Thinking:** Stimulate critical thinking skills by encouraging children to analyze their predictions and discern patterns related to objects that float.
- **Language Development:** Enhance vocabulary and communication skills through discussions about the experiment. Prompt children to articulate their observations and share their insights with peers.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Improve fine motor skills as children handle various objects, placing them gently in the water to observe their buoyancy.
- **Data Recording:** Introduce basic recording skills, fostering the ability to document observations systematically. This skill lays the groundwork for future scientific exploration and data analysis.

Watercolors Over Different Textures

MATERIALS

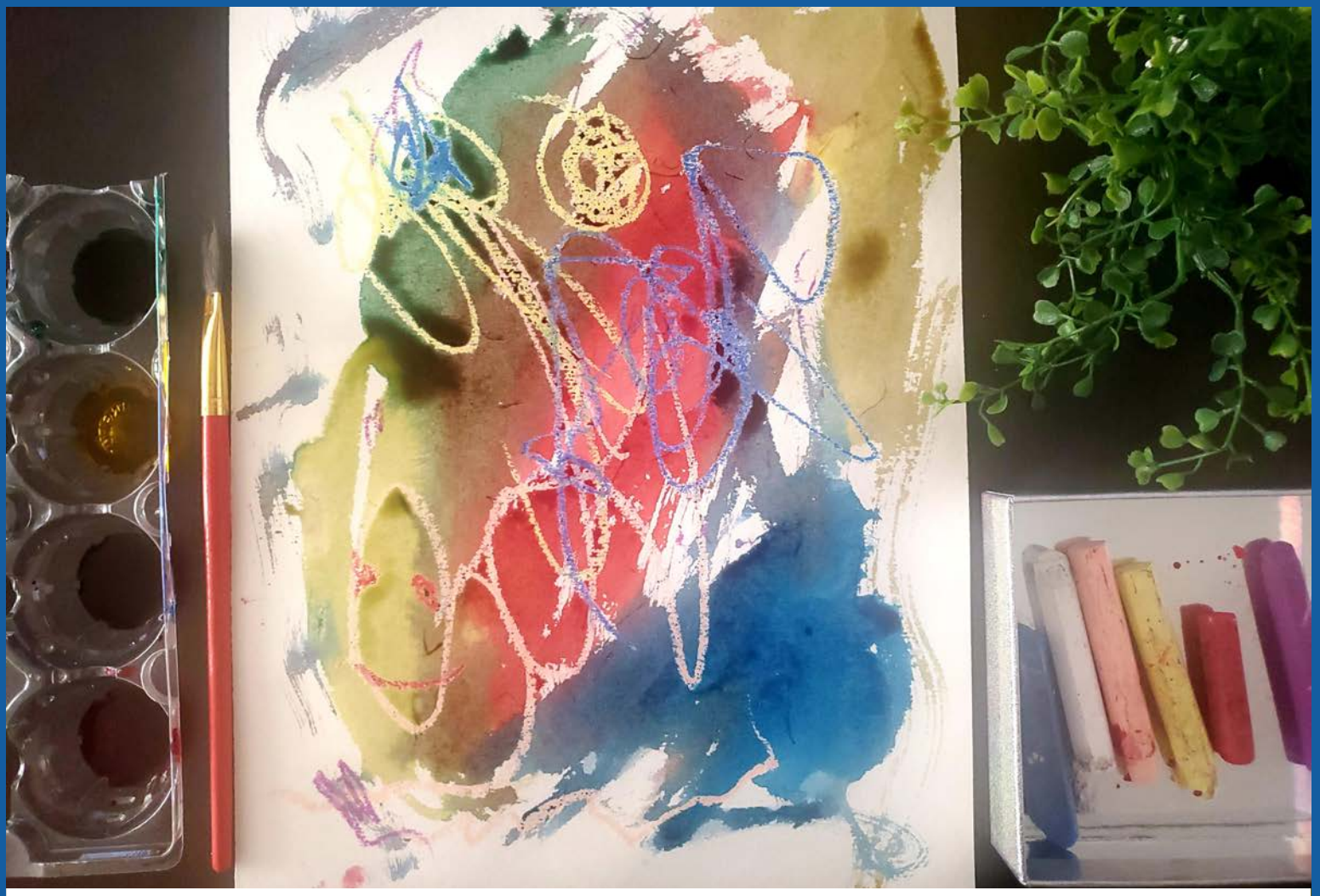
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Watercolor paper
- Paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Cardboard pieces
- Towels for cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Set up a palate of different textured surfaces for painting: small piece of watercolor paper, paper towels, aluminum foil, and cardboard for each child.
- Discuss the characteristics of each surface with the children. Highlight the absorbency of watercolor paper, the porous nature of cardboard, and the reflective properties of aluminum foil and smooth texture of paper towels. Gather predictions of what children will think will happen when painting over each surface.
- Allow children to freely express themselves on each surface. Encourage experimentation with color mixing, brush techniques, and layering to discover the qualities of each texture. Gather and reflect by asking questions like, "How did painting on different textures feel?" or "What did you learn about how watercolors interact with each surface?"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Textural Exploration:** Foster an understanding of different textures and how they influence the application of watercolors.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Enhance fine motor skills through the use of brushes and the controlled application of watercolors on various surfaces.
- **Artistic Expression:** Encourage creative expression as children experiment with colors, textures, and techniques on different materials.
- **Observation and Analysis:** Stimulate observational skills by prompting children to analyze how watercolors react differently on each surface.



Watercolors & Oil Pastels

MATERIALS

- Watercolor paper or thick drawing paper
- Watercolor paints and brushes Oil pastels
- Water cups and brushes for cleaning
- Towels or paper towels for cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Provide children with watercolor paper or thick drawing paper. The texture of the paper will enhance the overall effect of the art.
- Introduce watercolor paints and oil pastels. Discuss their different characteristics: watercolors are transparent and activated by water, while oil pastels are vibrant and work on various surfaces.
- Start with oil pastels to create bold outlines, then apply watercolors.
- Provide water cups for cleaning brushes between color changes.
- After the artwork is dry, discuss the experience using both watercolor and oil pastels. Ask questions like, "How did the two mediums interact?" or "What was your favorite part of the process?"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Artistic Expression:** Encourage creative expression and experimentation as children explore the combination of watercolor and oil pastel mediums to create unique and vibrant artwork.
- **Medium Understanding:** Develop an understanding of the characteristics and behaviors of watercolors and oil pastels, fostering scientific (how oil and water do not mix) and artistic knowledge and skill.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Enhance fine motor skills through the precise application of oil pastels and the controlled use of brushes during the watercolor phase.
- **Creativity and Reflection:** Stimulate creativity by allowing children to reflect on their artistic choices and the outcome of their combined watercolor and oil pastel masterpiece.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Encourage peer interaction and the sharing of ideas during the creative process, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

DIY Water + Oil Sensory Bottles

MATERIALS

- Clear bottles with tight-fitting lids
- Water
- Vegetable or baby oil Food coloring
- Optional:
  - Glitter or beads
  - Hot glue gun (for sealing the lids, adult supervision required)

DIRECTIONS

- Collect clear bottles with secure lids. Ensure they are clean and dry before starting.
- Invite children to fill the bottles halfway with water. Then, add vegetable oil or baby oil to fill the remaining space, leaving a small gap at the top.
- Have children add a few drops of food coloring into the bottle. Observe how the color interacts with the water and oil. You can experiment with different colors.
- Add a pinch of glitter or small beads to enhance the sensory experience. Watch as they slowly float or sink in the oil and water mixture (optional).
- Apply hot glue to the inside of the bottle cap and quickly seal the lid onto the bottle. Ensure the lid is tightly secured. This step should be done by an adult.
- Once the lid is secure, invite children to shake the bottle gently and observe the interaction between the oil and water. Discuss the patterns, movement, and colors. Encourage children to explore the sensory bottles by rolling them on a flat surface, tilting them, or simply watching the oil and water separate. Discuss how the liquids behave differently.
- Gather children for a reflective discussion. Ask questions like, "What did you observe inside the sensory bottle?" or "How did it feel to shake and explore the bottle?"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Sensory Awareness:** Develop heightened sensory awareness through tactile exploration, observing the distinct properties of oil and water.
- **Scientific Inquiry:** Foster a basic understanding of scientific principles by exploring the reactions and interactions of different substances.
- **Order and Sequence:** Introduce the concept of order and sequence as children follow a step-by-step process in creating their sensory bottles, promoting organization and attention to detail.
- **Creative Expression:** Encourage creativity by allowing children to personalize their sensory bottles with colors and optional elements, promoting individuality.
- **Motor Skills:** Enhance fine and gross motor skills through the delicate process of adding elements to the sensory bottles and sealing the lids, while children use their core and limbs to shake and roll the bottles.

Painting With Ice

MATERIALS

- Ice cube trays
- Water
- Watercolors
- Craft sticks or popsicle sticks
- Paper or canvas sheets

DIRECTIONS

- Fill ice cube trays with water and add a few drops of watercolors to each compartment.
- Place a craft stick or popsicle stick in each compartment as a handle. Freeze until solid. Provide each child with paper or canvas sheets for painting. Ensure the space is covered or suitable for potential drips.
- Remove the colorful ice cubes from the trays. Discuss the transformation from liquid paint to frozen cubes and the potential for vibrant artwork.
- Encourage children to explore the ice cubes by holding the craft stick handles and observing the changing colors as the ice melts onto the paper or canvas.
- Discuss the colors created as the ice cubes melt and blend together. Encourage children to observe the magical color transformations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Sensory Exploration:** Stimulate sensory development as children engage with the cold, melting ice cubes and explore the changing textures and colors.
- **Fine Motor Skills:** Enhance fine motor skills through the manipulation of craft sticks and the delicate process of painting with melting ice cubes.
- **Color Exploration:** Introduce color concepts and color mixing as children observe the vibrant hues created by the melting ice cubes.
- **Creative Expression:** Foster creativity by allowing children to experiment with different painting techniques and the unpredictable nature of melting ice.
- **Canvas Manipulation:** Develop an understanding of cause and effect as children manipulate the canvas or paper to control the flow and direction of the melted paint.
- **Cleanup Responsibility:** Encourage responsibility by involving children in cleanup, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a tidy creative space.

Ice Excavation

MATERIALS

- Small container/s or molds Small toys or objects (e.g., figurines, loose parts, etc.) Water
- Freezer
- Tools to excavate (e.g. hammer, spoon, sticks, screwdriver, water
- and pipette, etc.)
- Towels for cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Encourage children to select small toys or objects that fit into the container/s. Discuss the different shapes, sizes, and textures of the items.
- Have children arrange the selected toys or objects in the plastic containers. Encourage creativity and fine motor skills as they position the items in different ways. Assist in filling the containers with water and place the filled containers in the freezer and wait for the water to freeze around the toys, creating ice blocks.
- Once the ice blocks are fully frozen, remove them from the containers. Discuss the transformation from liquid to solid and introduce the concept of excavation. Provide children with tools for the excavation process.
- Let children explore the sensory experience of excavating the toys from the ice blocks. Discuss the changing textures as the ice melts and the toys are revealed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Sensory Exploration:** Develop sensory awareness as children engage with the changing textures and temperatures during the ice excavation process.
- **Motor Skills:** Enhance fine and gross motor skills through the use of full body movements (limbs, hands, and fingers) and tools during the excavation, promoting coordination and control.
- **Scientific Inquiry:** Introduce basic concepts of freezing and excavation, fostering an understanding of states of matter and cause-and-effect relationships.
- **Creativity and Expression:** Encourage creative thinking as children arrange toys in the containers and explore different methods of ice excavation.

Loose Parts Ice Cubes

MATERIALS

- Ice cube trays
- Various loose parts
- (e.g., small toys,
- buttons, sequins pebbles, feathers, beads, small pieces of fabric, pom-poms, etc.) Water
- Freezer
- Towels for cleanup

DIRECTIONS

- Encourage your child to select an assortment of loose parts to place in the individual compartments of the tray.
- Discuss the different textures, shapes, and colors of the chosen loose parts. Encourage children to explore the tactile qualities of each item before placing them in the trays.
- Have children arrange the loose parts in their ice cube trays in any pattern or design they like. Assist children in filling the compartments with water, ensuring that the loose parts are fully submerged.
- Place the trays in the freezer and wait for the water to freeze around the loose parts.
- Once the ice cubes are completely frozen, remove them from the trays. Discuss the changes in state from liquid to solid and explore the frozen textures of the loose parts within the ice cubes.
- Provide a sensory-rich environment by letting children touch and explore the frozen loose parts. Discuss the sensations and changes that occur as the ice cubes melt.
- Engage in a reflective discussion and ask questions like, "How did the loose parts look frozen in the ice?" or "What was your favorite part of the sensory exploration?"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Sensory Exploration:** Foster sensory development as children engage with the various textures and temperatures of the loose parts and ice.
- **Motor Skills:** Develop fine motor skills and depth perception through the handling of small loose parts and arranging them within the ice cube trays.
- **Scientific Inquiry:** Introduce basic concepts of states of matter by observing the freezing and melting process of water with added loose parts.
- **Creativity and Expression:** Encourage creative expression as children design unique patterns with the loose parts within the ice cubes.
- **Reflection and Communication:** Stimulate communication skills by prompting children to express their thoughts and feelings about the sensory exploration experience.

Bath for Baby Doll (Practical Life Skills)

MATERIALS

- Baby doll
- Small tub, basin, or bin
- Washcloth or sponge
- Towel
- Gentle baby soap
- Plastic pitcher or cup
- Water

DIRECTIONS

- Place the small tub or basin on a safe, flat surface.
- Fill the bin halfway with water
- You can invite your child to help fill the bin up and even predict how much water is needed (as a mathematical extension).
- Arrange the baby doll, washcloth, towel, and baby soap nearby and allow children to explore and play with the materials at hand.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Creative Thinking:** Cultivates creativity and imaginative play, allowing the child to explore and express ideas, emotions, and narratives through the interactive and imaginative context of caring for their baby doll.
- **Motor Development:** Supports precise motor control, hand-eye coordination, and grip strength, essential for future academic tasks and practical life activities.
- **Cognition:** Fosters organizational skills and understanding of sequential processes, laying the groundwork for effective time management and task execution.
- **Social Emotional Skills:** Develops emotional intelligence and social skills by understanding and expressing empathy, recognizing the needs of others, and promoting positive social interactions. This also cultivates a sense of personal responsibility and independence by participating in tasks resembling daily self-care routines, instilling foundational life skills.
- **Sensory Awareness:** Enables the child to interpret and respond to tactile stimuli, fostering a deeper connection with the surrounding environment.

Let's Laundromat (Practical Life Skills)!

MATERIALS

- Large water bin or basin
- Washcloth
- Gentle baby soap
- Clothespins
- Twine or rope
- Fabric or toy clothes
- Small laundry basket or bin
- Towels for spills
- Optional: Small laundry basket or bin, Imaginative props (cash register, play money, apron, etc.), Scale (to weigh clothes), pen & paper, etc.

DIRECTIONS

- Fill the large water bin or basin with water.
- Add bubbles to the water for a realistic washing experience.
- Arrange clothespins, twine, and a variety of clothes and any other additions near the water bin.
    - To add mathematics, have children weigh the clothing, come up with, and possibly write down the pricing. They can also make money.
- To add literacy, have children think of a name for the laundromat and write it out. They can create labels ("clean clothes" and "dirty clothes." Encourage your child to take on the role of a laundromat attendant. They can use the water bin to "wash" clothes, hang them with clothespins on the twine, and later fold and sort the laundry.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Cultivates creativity and role-playing skills** through imaginative dramatic play in a simulated laundromat setting.
- **Promotes language development** through communication during the dramatic play scenario, using vocabulary related to laundry activities, clothes, and customer service.
- **Introduces basic mathematics skills** through activities such as weighing clothes, making money transactions, and assigning costs for services.
- **Encourages literacy development** by providing materials for making a laundromat sign, promoting creativity and early writing skills.

MADE FOR CHILDREN. DESIGNED FOR YOU.