

We Skoolhouse



Ready-Made Curriculum: Water Exploration



A Practical Guide for Exploration

Each unit offers a suggested flow of experiences designed to support deep, meaningful learning through play. You'll notice intentional repetition—this is purposeful. Repeating activities builds memory, mastery, confidence, attention, and focus, forming the foundation for long-term learning.

The experiences are open-ended & process-driven, focusing on how children learn rather than what they produce. This allows for a range of learning styles & encourages exploration at each child's unique pace.

Flexibility Matters

Each unit includes a suggested daily activity guide to support your planning—but it's not meant to be followed rigidly or completed in a set order:

- **Follow the children's lead:** If they're deeply engaged, slow down. If interest fades, it's okay to pause and return later. Some children need time to warm up to new ideas—don't move on too quickly. Repeating an invitation over several days can spark richer engagement.
- **Move at your own pace:** Stretch a week into two, repeat activities as long as needed, and allow units to grow over time.
- **Revisit, don't rush:** There's no need to introduce a new unit each month. Returning to a familiar concept—like revisiting water after exploring texture or paint—deepens understanding and strengthens memory. Revisiting isn't starting over—it's going further.

This guide is about making space for curiosity, experimentation, and meaningful learning. Use it as a springboard—trust yourself, trust the children, and allow learning to unfold naturally.



Unit: Water Exploration

Water is a wonderfully versatile material for infants to explore. It offers opportunities to feel, splash, pour, and interact with a constantly changing environment. Through water, babies discover concepts like weight volume, & cause-and-effect as they engage with the water's flow, weight of sponges, & how objects float.

Domain	How Water Play Supports Development
Physical	Enhances sensorimotor integration as infants reach, grasp, splash, and kick. These movements support the development of gross and fine motor coordination and help establish early postural control.
Cognitive	Stimulates early neural pathways through multi-sensory exploration (temperature, texture, sound). Repetition of actions like splashing reinforces cause-and-effect understanding and object permanence.
Language	Promotes early receptive and expressive language through caregiver interaction: labeling sensations ("wet," "cold"), using sing-song voices, and narrating actions enhances auditory processing and word associations.
Social-Emotional	Builds attachment security through shared routines. Warm, responsive interactions during water play help co-regulate emotions and foster a sense of trust and safety, which is critical for future social development.

Unit: Water Exploration

Focus Materials: Water, shallow trays, cups, sponges, ice cubes

Books: Water, Water Everywhere by Leslie Perkins, Splish, Splash, Ducky! by Lucy Cousins

Songs: "Rain, Rain, Go Away! & "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Vocabulary: Water, splash, pour, wet, drip, cup, tub, cold, warm, bubble, soak, spill, float, dip, pat

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Hands in shallow water trays	Scooping & pouring water with cups	Hands in shallow water trays	Squeezing sponges in water	Ice cubes in warm water
Week 2	Scooping & pouring water with cups	Hands in shallow water trays	Squeezing sponges in water	Ice cubes in warm water	Scooping & pouring water with cups
Week 3	Ice cubes in warm water	Squeezing sponges in water	Hands in shallow water trays	Scooping & pouring water with cups	Floating objects in water
Week 4	Squeezing sponges in water	Floating objects in water	Hands in shallow water trays	Scooping & pouring water with cups	Ice cubes in warm water

Unit: Water Exploration

Suggested Activities

- **Hands in shallow water trays:** Babies explore water by splashing, touching, and feeling it with their hands in a shallow tray.
- **Scooping and pouring water with cups:** Babies use small cups to scoop up water and pour it out, building coordination and cause-and-effect understanding.
- **Squeezing sponges in water:** Babies squeeze wet sponges with their hands, helping strengthen their grip & feel different textures.
- **Ice cubes in warm water:** Babies touch and watch ice melt in warm water, experiencing temperature changes and learning through sensory play.
- **Floating objects in water:** Babies play with safe objects that float in water, noticing how some items stay up while others sink.

Alternatives and Extensions:

Explore these simple variations to extend play, supporting repetition, variety, and deeper sensory learning:

- **Natural materials in water:** Explore petals, leaves, or stones for texture and movement.
- **Bubbles in water:** Swish and pop bubbles for light, sound, and texture play.
- **Water painting:** Use brushes or sponges to make disappearing marks on surfaces.
- **Dripping water:** Observe or feel slow drips, encouraging focus and sensory awareness.

