

# Science & Sensory Lesson Plan: “Sink or Float Discovery” (All Ages)

Classroom:

Teacher:

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## Learning Objective(s)

- Children will explore scientific concepts of sinking and floating through hands-on investigation.
  - Children will strengthen observation, prediction, and problem-solving skills.
  - Children will engage their senses (touch, sight, sound) while experimenting with different objects in water.
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## Materials

- A large clear tub or sensory bin filled with water
  - Towels or mats for spills
  - Variety of safe objects (plastic animals, corks, spoons, rocks, blocks, toy cars, leaves, balls, etc.)
  - Chart paper or board for recording results
  - Optional: clipboards, crayons, and “Sink or Float” worksheets for preschoolers
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## Procedures

1. **Set the Stage**
  - Gather children and introduce the activity:
    - “Today we’re going to see what happens when we put things in water. Will they sink to the bottom or float on top?”
  - Show two example objects (a rock and a plastic ball). Ask:
    - “What do you think will happen to the rock? What about the ball?”
2. **Explain the Activity**
  - “Each of you will take turns dropping objects into the water. Before we drop them in, let’s make a guess—will it sink or float?”
  - Model one trial: drop an object in, watch, and discuss results.

### 3. Set Up the Space

- Place the water tub on a low table or floor with mats around it.
- Arrange objects nearby in a basket.
- Keep towels ready for cleanup.

### 4. Play the Game

- Invite children to choose an object, predict what will happen, then place it in the water.
- Watch together and discuss:
  - “It sank to the bottom!” or “It’s floating on top!”
- Record results on chart paper or with simple tallies (older children can help mark).
- Continue until most objects have been tested.

### 5. Wrap-Up

- Reflect with questions:
    - “Which objects floated? Which ones sank?”
    - “What do the floating objects have in common?”
  - Celebrate curiosity: “Scientists ask questions, make guesses, and test them—just like we did today!”
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## Individualized Support

- Provide larger, lightweight objects for infants and toddlers to safely handle.
  - Pair younger children with older peers or teachers for support.
  - Use visual cue cards (pictures of “sink” and “float”) for non-verbal children.
  - Offer one-on-one prompting for children who need extra help making predictions.
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## Modifications & Extensions

### Infants & Toddlers

- Use only large, safe items (soft balls, floating bath toys, big blocks).
- Focus on sensory experience: splashing, touching water, watching floating toys.
- Encourage simple language: “up,” “down,” “splash.”

### Preschool & Mixed-Age Groups

- Add sorting: group objects into “sink” and “float” piles.
- Encourage children to record predictions with drawings or checkmarks.
- Extend with “heavy vs. light” comparisons or testing materials (wood, plastic, metal).

### All Age Groups

- Take the activity outdoors and test natural items like leaves, sticks, or pebbles.
  - Incorporate storytelling (“Which objects would be good for making a boat?”).
  - Rotate themes (e.g., “Melt or Freeze,” “Magnet Hunt”) to keep science and sensory exploration ongoing.
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👉 This lesson encourages **scientific thinking through hands-on sensory play**, giving children the chance to experiment, make predictions, and celebrate discovery while engaging their senses.