



## Indoor Science Fun

Science can happen anywhere. In fact, you and your child can find lots of things to explore right inside your home. As your child helps you measure a space for a new rug or sorts her toys, she is building math skills. When she experiments with things that sink or float in the tub or constructs a bridge for her toy cars, she is building science skills.

When you encourage and join in on these explorations, you are helping her develop basic science skills as she asks questions, finds answers, and becomes aware of things around her.

- Add a variety of objects to the tub at bath time to encourage your child's water explorations (i.e., bowls, plastic cups and bottles, measuring spoons, corks, and sponges). Let him splash, pour, drizzle, stir, spray, scoop, and drip water as he freely explores.
- Encourage your child to explore mixing water and soap to wash plastic dishes. Give him a dishpan of soapy water and a sponge or washcloth so he can wash his own toys.
- Have your child explore sinking and floating. Ask her to predict whether an item will float or sink in water and then test her prediction. Your child will have good ideas about what floats and what sinks—and why. Talk with her about her ideas.
- Make your child your assistant in the kitchen and help her build math skills. You can ask her to measure three cups of water or stir a batter until it changes from lumpy to smooth.
- Explore household tools with your child. Invite him to think about how different tools are designed to do certain jobs. For example ask, *What is this ladle good for? How does its shape make it good for serving soup?* When possible, let him use the tools.
- Use everyday objects such as blocks, tubes, and cardboard pieces to engage your child in building activities and support her problem-solving skills. You might also set out paper and markers and encourage her to draw a plan for her bridge or house before she builds it.
- Use a quiet time or bedtime to explore sounds in your house. Have your child close his eyes for a minute and just listen to the sounds all around. Then take turns identifying and describing the sounds in his environment.
- Engage your child in measuring activities using a ruler, string, or household items such as paper clips. Invite her to measure her own block structures or to help you as you measure a space on the wall for a picture. She'll discover that everyday tools can be used to measure things.
- Be prepared for messy indoor explorations with play clothes, wipes, and a bag or container for holding paints, clay, goop, or other things your child plays with over and over again.