



FLOATING SURPRISE TUBS

Materials you need:

- A few small toys and twigs that float.
- A water tray or shallow tub (easy enough for baby and toddler to reach into).
- Soup ladles and/or strainers with a handle for easy holding.

Setup for play:

- Fill the water tray or tub (this is a fun one to do outside on a sunny day so you don't need to stress about water going all over the floor indoors).
- Add the toys and show baby and toddler how they float and won't sink even when you push and release.
- Let the children practice their scoop and pour skills using the ladle or strainer in the water.
- Show them how to scoop up the toys and sticks then leave baby to try catching them on her own.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children scoop, pour, catch and play they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Manipulate objects to explore motion, cause and effect
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and experimentation
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Challenge their sense of touch and sensory processing
- Experiment with the concept of volume.

Extending the play:

- Use slightly blown up balloons in the water tub for catching instead of the toys.
- Add colour or bubbles to the water. Show the toddlers how to use whisks to make the water frothy with a few drops of dishwash liquid added.
- Use a selection of natural materials and do some simple sink or float activities.

