

Fun with Water

Water Play

- Have water play with different sized plastic pots and jugs. Wash out pots and bottles that once had food in. This makes a free toddler game with your home made toys - easy. They will love pouring water from one container to another. Funnels make it easier to fill the bottles.
- Empty shampoo and washing up bottles with lids on so they can work out how to get the water in the bottles by squeezing it and letting go, then have fun squirting the water out. This is another free game for your learning toddler.
- Pots and sieves of different sizes - like tea strainers and colanders. Let the children work out why these cannot get filled with water.
- Spoons, scoops and ladles of different sizes and shallow dishes will encourage a different kind of water play. Use whatever you already have in the kitchen and this becomes a free toddler game.
- Colour the water with food colouring for a change and let them see the water levels more clearly.
- As a special treat put a little glitter in the water. Give your toddler something to stir with and let them see the wonderful patterns they can make. Beware, the glitter gets everywhere so you will be seeing it around the house for a few weeks!
- Place a wide target (roll of banner paper or large board that will show water spots) at a short distance from everyone. Line up and use a squirt bottle filled with water to hit the target.

Fun with Bubbles

- Bubbles in the bath - lots of them.
- Sponges of different sizes and densities make loads of bubbles when squeezed. Why not invest in a natural (once living) sponge? It's a very different experience.
- Fill plastic pots of different sizes and shapes with bubbles.
- Give them a wooden spoon so they can reduce the bubble foam to water again by stirring.
- Give them a spoon and let them spoon the bubbles into shallow dishes, a pan or muffin pan.
- Have a bubble wand for them to catch the bubbles. (Be careful of the slippery floor!) This is safest as an outdoor activity for kids on the grass.



Ice play

- These days you can buy ice cube trays in all sort of shapes – even fish shaped ones. Whatever the shape, give the children a sieve to 'catch' the ice cubes.
- Freeze treasures in the ice cubes.
- Freeze water in different containers. Turn the ice out and match the ice shapes to the containers.
- Add ice cubes to warm water and describe what is happening to them as they melt.
- Sprinkle salt on to ice and see what happens.
- Make your own ice lollies. You can buy lolly moulds quite cheaply, but if you don't have any to hand, small, freezable plastic cups and teaspoons will do. Make some squash or fruit juice, pour into the cups (or moulds), stick in the teaspoons and freeze.



Imaginary fun with water

- Turn the water tray into an ocean for the day. Dye the water blue with coloring just for a change. Introduce plastic animals – sharks, octopuses and boats. Better still if they make their own boats out of construction toys or paper. Never be afraid to mix things up! You can even add sand, shells or sunken treasure.
- Bath dolly – either at bath time or add a squeeze of washing up liquid to a washing up bowl. Provide a towel, sponge or flannel, baby wipes, dolls clothes, spare disposable nappy etc to support the children's play.
- Go fishing – cut out plastic fish, attach paperclips and use magnets to fish alternatively, use a sieve to catch the fish.



Floating and Sinking

Collect a selection of objects from around the home. For example – corks, shells, empty containers, apples, duplo bricks, twigs, cotton wool, foil, sponges etc .

Guess if objects will float or sink before adding them to the water, one at a time.



Playing with water is fun for children and provides them with lots of learning experiences. However, **PLEASE REMEMBER**, to **NEVER** leave your child unattended as children can drown in a very small amount of water.