

SINK OR FLOAT SENSORY BIN

Today we're exploring one of our favorite nature play materials: water! Water is inherently sensory and offers a lot of different ways to experiment. For this sensory bin, we've focused on materials that may sink or float. For older learners this sensory bin can also turn into an engineering challenge—can they make objects that sink float using the materials in the bin?



**GARFIELD PARK
CONSERVATORY
ALLIANCE** 

SUPPLIES

- Container that can hold water (we like the large storage bins you find for winter clothes) or use the bath tub!
- Wine corks
- Pebbles & stones
- Pieces of bark & sticks
- Flowers & leaves (dried & fresh)
- Ice cubes
- Shells
- Sponges
- Rubber duckies or other bath toys
- Seeds & seed pods
- Paper (for older learners try folding some into origami paper boats!)

ACCESSIBILITY NOTES

Not everyone will enjoy the sensation of water on their hands, especially for those with sensory processing issues. For these learners, we recommend trying the activity wearing a pair of dishwashing gloves or using tongs to manipulate the different materials.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- How does the water feel on your skin?
- Does this feel different when it's wet?
- What do you notice about the things that float? What about the things that don't float?
- Can you find a way to make a heavy object float using other objects?

IF YOU ENJOY THIS ACTIVITY, LET US KNOW!

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