Does It Float or Sink?

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Cognitive

What You Need:

- Beach objects such as driftwood, coconuts, rocks, shells, and seaweed
- Paper
- Pencil

What To Do:

1. When you and your child are at the beach, find several natural objects to experiment with.
2. Ask your child to describe each object’s appearance and texture. If he has difficulty, prompt him with questions such as, “What does it look like?” and “How does it feel?”
3. Ask him to guess which objects will float or sink in the water, then have him toss each one into the water to find out what happens to it.
4. After each toss, talk about the reasons why objects float or sink: “Did the rock sink because it was heavy or light?”
5. Make a chart to show which objects floated and which sank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Float Sink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foam cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Coin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Have him count the number of objects that floated and the number that sank.