At-Home Summer Guide for Discovery Preschoolers (2 years old)

Week of July 13, 2020

This week's guide continues the theme **Wonderful Water**! The activities in the guide reflect the water-related activities happening in our Discovery Preschool Classrooms. Whether you've returned to your center or you're still learning from home, you and your child can join in on the wonderful world of water!

This week is all about **exploring with water**! On the creative side, your child paints with water, explores what happens when they add water to chalk drawings, and uses wrist ribbons to mimic how water moves. They also experiment to see which cup holds more water and test objects to see which ones sink and which ones float.

You can continue your child's exploration of **sink and float** in a variety of ways throughout the day. If you're rinsing fruits or vegetables, put them in a bowl of water so you and your child can see which ones sink and which ones float. Or provide a variety of toys that can be used to explore sink and float while they're taking a bath in the tub.



This Week's Theme: Wonderful Water

What you'll find in this guide...

We've provided activities similar to what your child would be learning in their center. You and your child can choose your own adventures and do the activities in any order you'd like, repeating and revisiting them as often as you want! Click on the icons below to discover more...



Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

Painting with Water:

- Container
- Paintbrush
- Water

Spray Art:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Paper (if an outdoor space isn't available)

Sink or Float:

- Plastic tub
- Towel, to help with spills
- □ Variety of objects that float, such as a toy boat, pencil, and a sponge
- Variety of objects that sink, such as a spoon, rock, and dice
- Water

Which Holds More?:

- Plastic cups in 4-5 different sizes
- Plastic pitcher
- Plastic tub or shallow baking pan
- Towels
- Water

Water Dance:

- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- Music for your child to dance to
- Plastic tub
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- Ribbon, yarn, string, or fabric strips
- **Rubber bands, string, or ribbon**
- Water

Seek and Find:

Seek and Find picture





HOME



Let's Create: Painting with Water

Explore painting with water, where nature does the work of cleaning your canvas through evaporation.



What your child is learning:

- How to use different tools and materials to create two-dimensional art
- A beginning understanding of evaporation
- Fine motor skills as they use the paintbrush

What you do: Fill the container with water and select a sunny outdoor surface for your child to paint on. If an outdoor surface isn't available, create an indoor space using a sheet of dark paper in a sunny window.

Invite your child to paint with water on the selected surface. As they paint, draw their attention to the water that evaporates and fades the paintbrush marks. Ask them what they think is happening and what will happen to their painting when all of the water evaporates or dries up. Invite them to continue painting for as long as they're interested, encouraging them to make observations about how their paintings change. If possible, invite them to explore different surfaces in different sunny and shady spots, making observations about where the water dries faster.





Let's Create: Spray Art

Your child uses sidewalk chalk and a spray bottle of water to create unique drawings.

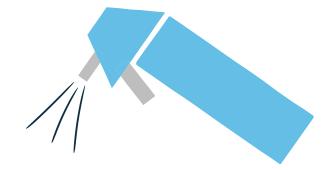


What your child is learning:

- How to use different tools and materials to create two-dimensional art
- How to communicate and share ideas and experiences with others
- How to make observations and comparisons

What you do: Set up a space outdoors where you child can draw on the ground with sidewalk chalk. If an outdoor space isn't available, you can have your child draw on paper and then place the sheet of paper in a bathtub, shower, or large plastic tub for the spray portion of the activity.

Invite your child to draw on the ground using the sidewalk chalk. After they've had time to draw, show them the spray bottle. Share that you've filled the spray bottle with water, and they can use it to spray water on their drawings. Give your child the spray bottle and invite them to spray as much or as little water as they would like on their chalk drawing. After they've sprayed their drawing, ask them what happens when the chalk becomes wet. How did the water change their drawing? Invite them to add more chalk on the wet ground and explore how drawing on wet ground is different than drawing on dry ground.







Let's Experiment: Sink or Float

Your child tests objects to see if they sink or float in a tub of water.



What your child is learning:

- How to communicate and share ideas and experiences with others
- An understanding that things can sink or float
- How to participate in and conduct scientific experiments

What you do: Fill the plastic tub with enough water to cover any objects that sink. Place the objects you collected and the towel near the plastic tub.

Show your child the objects you collected and share that they're going to experiment to see which of these objects float and which sink. Explain that when an object is placed in water, if it stays on top of the water, if floats, and if it drops to the bottom of the water, it sinks. Have your child select one of the objects and encourage them to make observations about the object and predict if it will float on top of the water or sink to the bottom. Invite your child to test each object by placing it in the water. Did it sink or float? Was their prediction correct? Why or why not? Continue this process for each of the objects.





Let's Explore: Which Holds More?

Your child explores volume as they determine which container will hold more water.



What your child is learning:

- A beginning understanding of volume
- How to make comparisons

What you do: Lay a towel flat on the table. Fill the pitcher with water. Place the plastic tub, pitcher of water, and plastic cups on the towel. Keep additional towels nearby to clean up spills. If possible, do this activity outdoors to minimize cleanup from spills.

Have your child select two of the plastic cups. Ask them which one they think will hold more water. Why? Have them place the one they think will hold less inside the tub and fill it with water from the pitcher, assist with pouring as needed. Then have them place the other container in the tub and pour the water from the first container into it. What happened? Did all the water fit in the second container? Did they have to stop pouring because the second container was full? Invite them to make observations and determine which container will hold more water based on their observations.

Assist your child in pouring the water back into the pitcher and repeat the process with two new containers. Invite your child to continue making comparisons for as long as they're interested.





Let's Move: Water Dance

Your child mimics the movement of water while dancing with wrist ribbons.



Length of activity: 15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

Level of Engagement Required by Adult: Medium







What you need:

- Clear bottle or jar with lid
- Music for your child to dance to
- Plastic tub
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- Ribbon, yarn, string, or fabric strips
- Rubber bands, string, or ribbon
- Water

What your child is learning:

- How to move creatively
- How they can influence the movement of objects
- How to relate prior learning to new experiences

What you do: Create wrist ribbons by tying 12 to 18-inch lengths of ribbon, yarn, string, or fabric strips to a large rubber band, or to a shorter length of string or ribbon that you can tie loosely around your child's wrist. If you don't have the materials to create wrist ribbons, you can use lightweight scarves or dish towels for your child to hold while dancing. If possible, create additional wrist ribbons so you or other members of your family can join in on the fun.

Fill the plastic tub halfway with water and fill the bottle or jar two-thirds full of water and cover it with the lid. Begin by showing your child the tub of water. Invite them to gently shake the tub from side to side. How does the water move? What happens to the water when you gently move the tub back and forth? Next, show them the bottle or jar of water. How does the water move when you shake it? Swirl it? Hold it sideways and tilt it back and forth. Remove the lid and slowly pour some of the water into the tub. How does the water pouring out of the jar look? How does the water landing in the tub look?



Show your child the wrist ribbon you created and share that they can use it to make movements like the water they just observed. Help them put the wrist ribbon on their wrist and invite them to explore what happens to the ribbons when they move their hand and arms in different ways. If your child prefers, they can hold the end of the wrist ribbon in their hand instead of having it placed around their wrist.

Play the music and invite your child to use their wrist ribbons to dance to the music. Encourage your child to move the ribbon in ways that are similar to how they moved the water, such as from side to side, shaking it, swirling it, or to move it ways that represent water, such as big waves and small waves.



Social and Emotional Learning

You can add a social and emotional lens to this activity by adding descriptive words that are often associated with emotions to the water actions you ask your child to simulate with the wrist ribbons. For example, you could ask them to move their wrist ribbons calmly like the ripples in steam or angrily like waves crashing against rocks.









