



## **Approaches to Learning**

### **Activity for 48 to 54 Months**

#### **Sink or Float?**

*This activity provides children with experience in discussing predictions and testing the results. It also gives them practice in categorizing objects based on size, shape, color, material, and weight.*

#### **Materials:**

- Poster board
- Various objects that will sink or float (rubber ducky, toy dinosaur, plastic block, sponge, paperclip, wood and metal items)
- Water basin, table, or bucket

#### **To make:**

- Use the marker to create a chart on the poster board.

#### **What to do:**

1. Fill a table or bucket with water and cover the work area with butcher paper or a plastic tarp.
2. Show the child the water basin, table, or bucket. Show each item to be dropped in the water.
3. Ask the child to predict which items will sink and which ones will float. Write his predictions on the chart.
4. Talk with the child about his predictions. Discuss size, shape, color, material, and weight of the objects.
5. Invite the child to add the items to the water. Did the item sink or float?

#### **Variation:**

Encourage the child to predict whether an item is magnetic. You'll need several magnets, along with magnetic and non-magnetic items (paperclips, cotton balls, pencils, nuts and bolts). Chart the predictions and results.

