



HELLO PARENTS,

Water covers nearly 71% of Earth's surface. It is essential for all life: without it, living organisms would not be able to survive. Water is used for drinking, cooking, and farming, but also for cleaning, recreation, transportation, manufacturing, and renewable energy. Water has a symbolic value in many cultures and is used in cultural rituals and practices. Water play is soothing and a great learning tool that supports children's sensory development and exploration. Adults can help children appreciate water and understand why we need to protect and conserve its sources. In this newsletter, we provide activities that will encourage your child to learn about and enjoy the many aspects of water.

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

WATER FUN

MATERIALS:

- Two plastic cups
- Spoon
- Rock (make sure to choose a larger rock that is not a choking hazard)
- Shallow bowl
- Towel

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the bowl with warm water and place cups, spoon and the rock inside.
- Place the bowl on a towel and sit with your child near it.
- Encourage your child to explore the water and talk to them about what they are doing. For example: "You are splashing with your hand", "You dropped the rock in the cup", etc.
- Sit back and observe as your child is exploring and learning.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

ICE TRANSFER

MATERIALS:

- Ice cubes in a container
- Tongs, spoon
- Towel
- Cup filled with water

DIRECTIONS:

- Together with your child place ice cubes, cup and tongs on a towel.
- Encourage your child to transfer the ice cubes from the container to the cup using tongs, a spoon or their hands.
- You can ask questions, such as: "How does the ice feel?", "Can you hold the ice in your hand?", etc.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

COFFEE FILTER PAINTING

MATERIALS:

- White coffee filters
- Washable markers
- Paint brush
- Bowl of water
- Baking sheet
- Spray bottle with water (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Place a coffee filter on the baking sheet.
- Have your child choose the markers to colour the coffee filter.
- Paint water over the coloured areas of the filter using the paint brush.
- Observe with your child how the colours blend.
- For a different effect, your child can spray water over the coloured coffee filter.
- Set the art pieces aside to dry and then display them on a window.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Hey, Water!" by Antoinette Portis.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

COIN BOAT CHALLENGE

MATERIALS:

- Large container filled with water
- Tin foil
- Coins

DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child design a simple tin foil boat.
- Place it in the container filled with water and see if it floats.
- Ask your child to place coins inside, one by one.
- Make a prediction together: How many coins will the boat hold before it sinks?
- Compare your predictions with the results.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

SIMPLE LIGHT REFRACTION EXPERIMENT

MATERIALS:

- Sticky note
- Marker
- Empty transparent bottle with lid
- Water

DIRECTIONS:

- Draw two arrows on a sticky note, one above the other, pointing in opposite directions. Stick the note on a blank wall.
- Fill up a bottle with water and put the lid on to avoid water spilling out when you move it around.
- Slowly, move the water bottle towards the sticky note and observe the arrows through the water.
- What did you notice about the arrows? Which way are they pointing?
- You will find that the arrows appear to change their directions. For example, the top arrow pointing to the left, appears to point to the right. And the bottom arrow pointing to the right, appears to point to the left. When you move the bottle back, you will see the arrows return to their original directions.
- Research why the arrows change their directions when you move the water bottle. Share the results with your friends and family.

[Click here](#) for STEM water projects and science experiments.



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and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
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FUN FACTS ABOUT WATER

- 97% of Earth's water is salt water in the oceans, and 3% of water is freshwater. Less than 1% of the freshwater supply can be used as drinking water.
- More than two billion people on Earth have no access to a safe supply of drinking water.
- The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystems on Earth, holding 20% of the world's freshwater supply.
- Water is life: our bodies are 60-70% water; our brains are 75% water; our lungs are nearly 90% water; and our blood is about 82% water.