

Washing up Bowl Science



- Find a bowl and selection of containers suitable for using in water pouring activities. These might include pans, jugs, empty milk containers, plastic mugs, etc. Ensure the water is at a safe temperature. Let the children empty and fill with the water. Which container holds the most? How many cups of water go into the pan? How many does it take to fill an egg cup? By using a washing up bowl, or a large mixing bowl you will be able to keep the quantity of water down to a minimum to avoid wastage. The children can scoop the water from the bowl into the receptacles.
- Can we change the water? Fill a collection of different containers with water. It could be old yoghurt pots, butter containers, etc. Add food colouring to them, using different colours and stir. Do they all look the same now? Try adding a drop of bubble bath to a container. What happens when you mix it in? Does it bubble? Does it smell different? Did it float on the surface before you stirred it around?
- If you have soap flakes you could try adding a few to warm water (temperature safe). Try stirring and whisking. You have added a solid to a liquid. It should disperse and then with enough whisking become frothy and smooth. Discuss the texture, the aroma, what it looks like, the changes, etc.
- You could add a teaspoon of washing up liquid to the water. What will happen? Does it disappear and disperse when you mix it? Give them different utensils to use. Look at the spoons, ladles, whisks, salad servers, spatulas, etc. Think about what the children could use in their water experiments. Not only are they carrying out experiments, they are using key motor skills. You could also talk about what the utensils are made of e.g. wood, plastic, silicon, metal and what colours they are.

- Try some floating and sinking activities. This doesn't just have to be objects. You could see if sprinkled pepper floats on the surface, or salt, shampoo, vinegar, flour, etc. Then you could try coins, a Lego brick, a lolly stick, a key, etc. You might even build a little boat, or improvise with an empty butter tub and see how much cargo it can hold until it sinks. Can you count the items?
- The washing up bowl also makes a great under the ocean scene. You could add shells, a diver, plastic fish, etc. and make up a deep sea adventure. Your child may have a favourite story or film they could use to explore stories.

Words

empty
liquid pour absorb
disperse fill
solid varnish
float sink compare