



Campbell Creek Science Center

Time Outside Together (TOTs): Water

Resources to explore the natural world with children under five.



Water Painting

Visit a local creek, lake, or pond. Or, fill up a kiddie pool, bucket, or other container with water.

- **Dip** a paintbrush, sponge, roller, spruce bough, stick, or finger into the water.
- **Paint** the water onto smooth, dry surfaces, such as fallen logs, dry leaves, stones, or pavement.
- **Observe** how the paintings change as they dry. Once dry, the area becomes a new canvas!



Sink or Float?

Conduct this simple experiment at a local body of water or in a container.

- **Collect** natural items, such as sticks, leaves, rocks, weeds, gravel, etc.
- **Drop** each item into the water one at a time. Does the item sink to the bottom or float on top?
- **Sort** the items into two categories:
 1. Things that **sink**.
 2. Things that **float**.
- **Discuss:** What do the things in each category have in common? Why do you think they sink or float?

NOTE: Always accompany kids near water. If you are near water that is swift and potentially dangerous, fill up a container and complete these activities at a safe distance from the moving water. Even shallow water can be dangerous for kids.

