

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)
Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

Sensory Activities

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

SCHOOL-AGE - Activity: Penny Boats

What you need:

- Plastic dish tub
- Water
- Aluminum foil
- Bowl of pennies (or other small coins like dimes or nickels)
- Paper
- Pencil or Pen
- Ruler

What to do:

- Use the ruler to draw three columns on a piece of paper. Label the first column "Name" and list the names of the people participating. Label the next column "Sink" and the last column "Float"
- Give each child a square of aluminum foil. Make sure they are all the same size
- The goal is for each child to make a boat out of their piece of foil that can float on the water in the dish tub. They will then add pennies to the boat to see how many it can hold before it sinks
- Once they have made their boat, they can begin to add pennies. Make sure they count their pennies as they add them
- When their boat sinks, write the number of pennies that made it sink in the "Sink" column
- Then children can carefully remove the water from their boat, remove one penny, and see if it will float again. They can repeat this process until the foil boat floats again
- Once it floats, children can subtract the number of pennies they removed from the boat from the number of pennies in the "Sink" column. This will give them the number for the "Float" column
- Children can compare the number of pennies their boats held. If someone's boat was able to hold more pennies, then children can discuss why, and try redesigning their boats to redistribute the weight and hold more

What the activity does:

- Practices math skills like counting, addition, and subtraction
- Experiments with science and engineering by using different weights to determine what might cause items to sink or float
- Introduces mathematical and scientific vocabulary (addition, subtraction, weight, distribution, redistribution, sink, and float)

