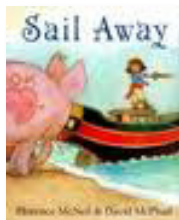


Floating boats

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Look for different kinds of boats in books or magazines, or when you are near a river, lake or ocean with your child.
- ❖ Talk about different types of boats, e.g. ferries, tugs, fire boats, cruise ships, kayaks. Point out different ways that boats are used.
- ❖ Make some simple boats with your child. Use materials that float, such as small pieces of wood, styrofoam, paper plates or cardboard boxes. Add details with straws, string and paper.
- ❖ Decorate your boats with flags and stickers, and give them names.
- ❖ Find a safe place to put the boats in water, e.g. in the bathtub or a plastic wading pool.
- ❖ Pretend you are going somewhere on your boats. Talk about where you are going and what kind of adventures you have along the way.

A good read-together book



Sail Away by Florence McNeil & David McPhail

You will need scraps of material that float, some paper, string, straws, stickers or other decorations, and a bathtub or wading pool.

This activity is good for talking about how to make things, learning new words about boating, and using imagination and creativity.



Hints for success

- ❖ Encourage your child to use his or her own ideas when making and sailing boats. Show your child how to use imagination by making a boat yourself and talking about it.
- ❖ Attach a piece of yarn or string to the front of each boat so you can guide it through the water.
- ❖ Make several boats so your child does not get discouraged if one boat sinks or falls apart.

I'm going fishing today. Where are you headed?

Reverse the engines!
There's a deadhead ahead!

Ways to say it

More ideas for Floating boats

Try this way

- ❖ Set up some simple experiments with your boats and talk about what happens, e.g. "Do you think this boat will sink if we put 2 pennies on board?"
- ❖ Take a walk around a harbour or marina to look at the names on different kinds of boats. Read the names together and talk about how people might choose names for their boats. Encourage your child to name his or her homemade boats and add the names to the boats.



Language development

Read the book **Sail Away** together and learn some of the special "sailor talk," e.g. "trim the sheets," "bail the bilge" and "weigh the anchor." Invite your child to figure out the meaning of each term by studying the picture.

Creativity and imagination

Read the book **Nicole's Boat** together. At bedtime, imagine you are going to take a trip down a river to the sea on your own boats. Make up stories about your adventures.

Art

Talk with your child about the pictures in **Nicole's Boat**. Notice how the artist painted scenes from the story. Invite your child to paint pictures about imaginary adventures on a boat.

Book links

Nicole's Boat by Allen Morgan & Jirina Marton

The Little Boat by Kathy Henderson

The Ferryboat Ride by Robert Perry