Water Play!

Ages: 2 and up (with adult support)

Activity Summary
Explore and play with water! Using a variety of bowls, cups, and scoops, children can practice pouring and transferring water while also using their senses to observe water in both, liquid and solid forms.

Learning Objectives
• Participants will explore the properties of water in liquid and solid phases.
• Participants will strengthen their hand-eye coordination while practicing the life skill of pouring.
• Participants will practice independent play skills.

Materials & Supplies
• Water
• Ice cubes
• Variety of containers: Tupperware, cups, bowls
• Scooping and measuring tools: measuring cups, spoons, ladles, baster, ice cream scoop, funnel
• Optional: large towel, food coloring

Setup
The fun of water play is that it tends to get a little wet and messy, so this is a perfect activity to do outdoors. Choose from a backyard, front porch or stoop, or even the sidewalk. If you are not able do this outdoors, you can put down a big towel to help with the mess, or simply explore in an empty sink or bath tub.

You may need to prepare ice ahead of time, such as the day before you plan to do this activity. To begin, place all of your containers on a flat surface, and then fill half of the containers with varying amounts of water, making sure to leave some of the cups or bowls empty.

Key Words
Water  Ice  Pour
Safety Precautions

Use containers that are not easily breakable by avoiding glass or ceramic pieces.

Use small containers and avoid any container that is large enough for your child to step or sit in.

Directions

1. Place ice cubes into various containers.
2. Encourage child(ren) to pour the water into different containers. They can pour the water directly from one container to another, or they may try using a scooping tool.
3. Refill water as needed.
4. Explore, play, and have fun!

Going Further

Place a few drops of food coloring into different containers of water and watch your child explore the joys of color mixing! Below are some possible color combinations to explore, or you can experiment and allow your child to add as many different colors as they would like.

- Blue + Red
- Blue + Yellow
- Yellow + Red

Adaptations

To add an element of dramatic play, you can pretend that you’re making a meal for a friend. Pouring some juice, mixing up a cake batter, or blending a smoothie, the options are endless! Encourage your child to put different “ingredients” into their containers, and then using a scoop, mix them all together in a large bowl. When children use their imaginations they are also building their brains to be creative problem solvers!

Clean up

Empty water down a drain, and wash all containers and scoops with soap and water. Wipe up any spills left on a surface or floor. If outside, allow the sun to dry it up.

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