Explore

How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

When children are engaged in activities they have chosen, learning is enjoyable because it is based on their own curiosity and connected to a sense of mastery. Experiments help children develop basic science skills like observing what is happening, and using words to describe what they see. Questioning and guessing at an answer are skills used every day in a classroom. There may be no correct answer, but the scientific effort is good mental exercise.

Try these at home!

- **Float or Sink?** Assemble a few items that float and a few things that will sink. Allow your child to work with a dishpan or bowl filled with water at the sink. Let your child take each item and tell you whether it sinks or floats.
- **It's Raining, It's Pouring.** Let your child learn how to pour using a small plastic pitcher and a few plastic cups. Tell your child that the cups are "empty" and that he should pour the liquid into them until they are "full." Try emptying the pitcher and filling the cups, then emptying the cups to fill up the pitcher. Experiment with different size cups.
- **Mud Pies.** Cooking in the kitchen and playing outdoors with sand or dirt are other ways to experiment and practice observation skills and develop language.

Illustrations by Corey Smigliani

BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Things to say:

- **"Why do YOU think it happens?"**
  Ask your child to make a prediction.
- **"What will happen if…?"**
  Ask your child to imagine what hasn't happened yet.
- **"What do you see?"**
  Ask your child to use descriptive words.
- **"Can you tell me about it?"**
  Open-ended questions may draw surprising responses.

Read All About It:

The Ultimate Bubble Book: Soap Science Fun by Shar Levine and Leslie Johnstone

Pop! A Book about Bubbles by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Becka and the Big Bubble-All Around Town by Gretchen Wendel and Adam Schomer

How to Make Monstrous, Huge, Unbelievably Big Bubbles (Klutz) by David Stein

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