SCIENCE AT HOME

Learning about science through play

Play is an important part of your child's learning and discovery. By using play to learn about science, your child uses all their senses – sight, sound, feel, smell and taste. They also learn about predicting, observing, describing and comparing different things around them. Let your child explore and ask lots of questions. Most of all, nurture their curiosity and creativity, and let them learn and discover at their own pace.

In the toy box

- Get your child to sort toys by size, shape, colour, texture and weight. Ask your child to explain why they have grouped certain toys together.

- Place one toy in each of your child's hands and ask them to tell you which feels heavier and which feels lighter.

- See how fast toy cars, marbles and balls roll down ramps and inclines. Experiment by changing the surfaces.

> **Put items in a dark plastic bag that your child cannot see through. Place different items in the bag. Get your child to put their hand in the bag and describe the different textures they feel, such as *smooth*, *furry* and *rough*.**

In the kitchen

- Observe and test how different kitchen utensils work and move such as an ice cream scoop, hand-held mixer, can opener, potato peeler and garlic press.

- Ask your child to look at their reflection on both sides of a spoon and ask questions such as: *Why do you think the reflection is different?* and *Which side of the spoon is like looking in the mirror?*

- Get your child to practise their coordination skills by picking up items with tongs and chopsticks.

- Make play dough. See our how to make play dough activity factsheet.

Bath play

- Test different objects to see if they float or sink. Make predictions before testing them and ask questions such as: *Why do some things float and others sink?* and *How can you make a floating object sink or a sinking object float?*

You'll find more learning at home factsheets at education.wa.edu.au.