March 21, 2020—Activity #1: Drop speed

The simplest things can keep a kid’s mind active! Try dropping a single drop food coloring in a glass of water. How long does it take to diffuse completely and have all the water blue? What happens, if you try different water temperatures or put two different colors in at once or.........Let your kids ask the questions and see, if together, you can find the answers by experimenting.

1. Gather supplies
2. Add one drop of color
3. Observe

March 22, 2020—Activity #2: Ramps

A toilet paper tube makes a great wheel and axle. Use books to build a ramp. How far does it roll? NO PUSHING! How can you make it go further? Can you get it to “stop on a dime”? Do you have to use the whole ramp? Can you tape a penny inside each end of the tube? What happens when you roll it then? What other cylinders roll further? Why?

1. Gather supplies
2. Make a ramp
3. Let it roll!

PUT EVERYTHING AWAY AFTER YOU ARE DONE PLAYING!
March 23, 2020—Activity #3: Boats

Fold a piece of foil or paper into a boat. Add pennies one by one until the boat sinks. Count the number of pennies. Reshape your boat or make a different shaped boat. See how many pennies the second one holds. What happens if you make waves? Does your boat sink or stay afloat? Do high or low sides work best?

1. Gather supplies
2. Make a boat
3. Test boat with pennies!

HAVE FUN AND, REMEMBER, CLEAN UP YOUR MESS AFTERWARDS!

March 24, 2020—Activity #4: Magnets

Collect different refrigerator magnets and different objects to test. First, make two piles—things that attract (stick) to a magnet and those that do not attract to a magnet. Count how many of each you find. Second, find things that have parts that attract and parts that don’t, like a pencil? How many did you find? Third, how many things can attract to a single magnet at one time? Fourth, use two magnets and see if they attract to each other through different things, like your fingers, a piece of paper, a popsicle stick, a piece of foil, a penny, etc. Stay tuned for more magnet fun.

1. Magnet supplies
2. What attracts or sticks?
3. What does force goes thru?

ENJOY AND, REMEMBER, PUT EVERYTHING AWAY, WHEN YOU ARE DONE BEING A SCIENTIST!
March 25, 2020—Activity #5: Scavenger Hunts

Use your brain and 👣👣 around your house to go on a scavenger hunt. Use your senses to observe: see with your 👀👀, listen with your 👂👂 and feel with your 👀. Here are ideas for specific hunts: a color hunt—find all the colors of the rainbow or shades of one color; a size hunt—find fist sized or thumb sized objects; a shape hunt—find spheres or cubes; sound hunt—tap lightly on hollow objects and find the best sounding ones to play a tune. Any house works!!! You can even make up your own scavenger hunt!

Any house works for a scavenger hunt!

March 26, 2020—Activity #6: To the rim challenge

Your goal is to get the bubbles of carbon dioxide TO THE RIM of the glass or cup, NOT over and NOT under, but “to the rim” of the glass or cup!

Gather your supplies: baking soda, vinegar, spoons, paper towel sheet and two SMALL glasses or plastic cups. Measure and record the number of spoons of soda in one glass or cup. Measure and record the number of spoons of vinegar in the second glass or cup. Pour the vinegar all at once into the soda. Record your results: greater than the rim (>); less than the rim (<) or equal to the rim (=). Try again, if you want! Be a chemical engineer and work until you get the bubbles to the rim of the glass or cup!

1. Gather supplies  2. Measure spoons of soda & vinegar  3. Pour all the vinegar into the soda

Watch for bubbles to go over the rim (>), under the rim (<) OR equal (=) to the rim!

HAVE FUN AND, REMEMBER, CLEAN UP YOUR MESS AFTERWARDS!
March 27, 2020—Activity #7: Breaking the tension

Gather materials: shallow plate or saucer; water; pepper; dish soap; toothpick. Pour water onto plate. Sprinkle pepper on water. Get a little dish soap on the end of a toothpick. Don’t stir, but gently touch the toothpick end with soap to the edge of water on the plate. Watch what happens! Do this between each “test”: **Clean up**, making sure that the plate is clean WITH NO SOAP left on it. Now, try again using herbs or spices instead of pepper (use anything that floats on the water). **Clean up again.** This time touch the toothpick in the middle of the plate, instead of the edge. **Clean up again.** Try different soaps—liquid hand soap or bar soap or laundry soap. Which soap works the best?

1. Gather supplies       2. Sprinkle pepper on water on plate       3. Touch toothpick with soap to water

Try floating different things & using different soaps, but remember: **good scientists only change one thing at a time.**

HAVE FUN AND, BE SURE TO CLEAN UP YOUR MESS AFTERWARDS!

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March 28, 2020—Activity #8: Oobleck (cornstarch putty)

Supplies needed: cornstarch, water, bowl and spoon. Put a small amount of cornstarch in the bowl. Add a little water at a time. Make a thick mixture. Add more cornstarch, if the mixture is too “soupy”. When the mixture is the right thickness, test it by hitting hard and fast on the top with your finger or the spoon. Your finger or spoon do not penetrate the oobleck, but if you poke your finger or spoon in slowly, they sink right down into the mix. A mixture of cornstarch and water (sometimes called oobleck) is **DILANTANT.** It acts as a solid, when you hit the surface hard and fast with your finger or spoon. It acts as a liquid, if you hit the surface softly and slowly and your finger or spoon sink right down into the mix. Note: Non-drip paints are the opposite--**THIXOTROPIC.** They act like a liquid when not under pressure (in the paint can) and a solid when under pressure (on the brush), so they don’t drip. Put a little oobleck in your hand. Roll it into a ball. When you stop the pressure of rolling, the mix turns back to a liquid!


Have fun! Be sure to clean up. If any oobleck spills on the floor, it will vacuum up, when dry.
March 29, 2020—Activity #9: Frogs

How many frogs do you see in the picture below? If you said none, you are probably talking about live frogs and you would be correct. If you say two, you are talking about objects shaped like a live frog and you are right. If you say four, you are also correct. There are two “floral frogs” that used to be used to hold flowers in place in an arrangement. Floral frogs were used in Japan as far back as the 1300’s. They were probably called frogs because they sit down in the water at the bottom of the vase! Today, we use something called “oasis”, a foam that holds water and you can stick the flower stems down into it. Or we put small stones or flat glass marbles in the bottom of the vase to help arrange the flowers 🌸. Draw a picture of a frog in its habitat. Play “leapfrog”. Try to find frogs at your house. Think about pictures in books, toys and stuffed animals. Or, maybe you even have some “floral frogs”?!  

Count the frogs!

Have fun and after your frog hunt, be sure to put everything away!