

PATCH 'Ohana Network



PATCH - Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

Everyday Science: Bath Time

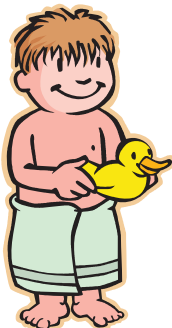
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Science is all around us – even in your child's bath! Here are some easy ways to sneak a science lesson into your child's bath.



Infant: Babies are great junior scientists. They do a lot of their learning through their senses. Before baby gets into the bath, rub baby's foot with a dry washcloth. Tell baby what you are doing, and ask how it feels. Say, "I'm

rubbing your foot with a dry washcloth. It feels rough." After you put baby in the bathtub, wet the washcloth and rub baby's foot again, "I'm rubbing your foot with the same washcloth, but now it's wet. Now it feels soft." As you add soap to the cloth, explain how it is changing: "Watch what happens when I rub your baby soap on the wet washcloth. Ooooh, bubbles... How does the bubbly washcloth feel on your foot now?"



Toddler: Children love watching rubber ducks float. Expand your child's concept of floaters and sinkers by including common objects (i.e., sponges, plastic cups, spoons, etc.) of different sizes and weights into their bath toys. Ask your child to guess if an object will sink

(drop to the tub's floor) or float (lay on top of the water). Say, "You just made a prediction, a fancy word for guess. Let's see if you're right." Let your child drop the object, make an observation and then talk about whether or not the prediction was correct. Repeat the process with other objects. Throughout the week discuss what the sinkers (or floaters) have in common.

Preschooler: Shave gel is an affordable way to have fun with Science. Fill your child's hand with shave gel and say, "What color is the shave gel?"

Wait for a response, then ask about the smell. Inquire about the texture by saying, "Is it soft or is it hard?" Wait for an answer, then say, "Is it rough or is it smooth?" Have your child rub the gel between their hands and ask, "The gel was pink before you rubbed your hands together. What color is it now?" This simple activity role models an important scientific skill – the ability to ask questions and make observations. Please be sure to check first if your child has allergies to scents and ingredients in shave gel before trying this activity.



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Kindergarten: Important Science skills such as pouring, measuring and estimating can be achieved by including different sized measuring cups/spoons, bowls, cups, funnels, etc. into your child's bath toys. Give your child a bowl. Show your child a drinking cup, "How many cups of water do you think it will take to fill up that bowl?" After your child makes a prediction (guess) have your child fill the bowl. Count aloud as your child fills the bowl.

Talk with your child about the prediction and the outcome.

Say, "You guessed that it would take two cups to fill the bowl. It took three. That was a good prediction." Do this experiment every day, using different tools (e.g. a medicine cup, ladle, small bowl, etc.). Each day discuss the results, and eventually, figure out which tool was the best one for the job, and why.

All of the activities mentioned above are fun ways for children make observations and gather data – Science in its simplest form. The best thing is that all this learning happens at home under your watchful eye.

