

# Theme: Water

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

If it's warm enough outside, turn on the water sprinkler and let the children run through the water!  
Fill-and-dump small buckets of water on each other!  
My boys used to love this one!  
Fill and toss water balloons!  
Paint the fence or the house with water! Use large brushes.  
Sidewalk chalk – Draw pictures on the sidewalk, then wash them away with a water hose.  
Let the children wash a car or wash the picnic table with a water hose, letting each of them take turns. If you have a nozzle on your water hose that adjusts to different sprays, let them try each setting.  
Toss water balloons into a laundry basket or plastic trash can.

## Math Activities:

- Let children measure differing amounts of water into jars so they can get a visual perspective of how much water it takes to fill a jar.
- Make a graph or chart to keep track of the sink or float “research” in the science activity.
- Cut out several sizes of “water droplets” from white paper and let children rank them from smallest to largest and from largest to smallest.

## Science Activities:

- Let children color water in jars with food coloring. Set the jars on a windowsill so the sun shines through the colored water.
- Sink or float? Let children try putting a number of objects in water to see if the items will sink or float.
- Blowing bubbles – use a variety of “wands” to blow bubbles—small bubbles, big bubbles, and everything in between. Comment with children about what makes bigger bubbles, etc.
- If it's raining outside, put a bucket out to catch rain water. Let children measure its depth and look at it through a clear jar to see if it's “clean.” They can examine drops under a microscope and compare it to tap water.

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Make a “cloud” puppet out of fabric and quilt batting. Fill it with shreds of paper “snow” and make up a story to go with it. The puppet can “snow” as the story is being told.
- Let children play with toy boats, big/small, long/short, and use their imaginations.
- Drop cotton balls into a jar and see who can get the most into the jar.

## Snacks:

Make popcicles from fruit juice and have them later for snacks. Talk about the difference between a solid and a liquid. What happens if you leave one sitting in a bowl all afternoon?  
Prepare a picnic lunch and pretend you're eating on a boat while you're out on Lake Huron. This is a good time to talk about the Great Lakes!  
Make ice cubes out of different-shaped ice trays... cubes, stars, etc. Use them in your drinks at snack time.  
Make homemade lemonade. Let the kids “roll” the lemons to soften them before squeezing.

## Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Field trip ideas include visiting a water treatment facility, the water park, a spray park, the swimming pool (be sure to get plenty of parent volunteers to go swimming with you!), or an ice rink.

**Songs & Fingerplays:** Get these from your fingerplay files! Google “boating fingerplays”, “water fingerplays”, etc.

## Art:

“Paint” the house, fence or sidewalk with water and large paint brushes.

Draw pictures on the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk – pictures of boats out on the water, etc.

Give the children some blue “water” paper (found at scrapbook stores) and let them glue on some boat shapes—or make a boat from triangles, rectangles, etc., to glue onto their paper. Add a sun shape!

Children can dab cotton balls in glue and adhere them to light blue paper to make a cloudy sky.

Talk about rain clouds and how rain is made.

Let the children draw themselves on paper carrying an umbrella—you could actually give them umbrella shapes in bright colored paper to glue onto their hand-drawn pictures.

## Dramatic Play:

Make a “boat” from a large cardboard box and give the children some life jackets to wear.

Skipper hats, sailor hats, etc.

## Books:

A Fish Out of Water by Helen Palmer and P. D. Eastman

Why Should I Save Water? by Jen Green & Mike Gordon

The Water Hole by Graeme Base

The Magic School Bus Wet All Over by Pat Relf and Carolyn Bracken

A Taste of Colored Water by Matt Faulkner

Water, Water Everywhere by Julie Aigner-Clark and Nadeem Zaidi

The Water Cycle by Bobbie Kalman and Rebecca Sjonger

Water by Frank Asch

No More Water in the Tub! by Tedd Arnold

The Life and Times of a Drop of Water: The Water Cycle by Angela Royston

The Snowflake: A Water Cycle Story by Neil Waldman

Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean by Arthur Dursos

I Am Water by Jean Marzollo and Judith Moffatt

Burt Down, Deep-Water Man by Robert McCloskey

Did a Dinosaur Drink This Water? by Robert E. Wells

## Circle Time Activities:

- Talk about how rain is made. Talk about umbrellas and raincoats and how they protect us from the rain. You could let children take turns holding an open umbrella while you “spray” water into the air above them. Let them see how the umbrella keeps their heads dry.
- Do a cut-and-tell story: Tell the children about one of your rainy day memories as you cut out paper-doll style umbrellas.
- Have someone come in to talk about boat safety.
- Have a lifeguard come in to talk about water safety.
- Pull out the water table and have a different project going with it all week. One day you can have doll clothes to wash, another day you can do sink/float activities, another day do toy fish and water mammals for the children to play with, another day put measuring cups and spoons in the water, etc.
- Read books about water adventures!