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President George W. Bush

The knowledge-based workplace of the 21st century requires that our students excel at the highest levels in math and science. Parents do not have to be scientists or have college degrees to help their children learn science. It is far more important for parents to nurture their children’s natural curiosity and take time to observe and learn with them.

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**activity**

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**Float or sink? (kindergarten-first grade)**

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**What you need:**
- Block of solid wood,
- Sink filled with water.
- Plastic cap?
- Aluminum foil.
- Wooden block.
- Plastic cap?
- Ball of aluminum foil.

**What to do:**
- Tell your child to hold the wooden block in one hand and the plastic cap in the other hand. Ask him or her which one feels heavier?
- Do the wooden block float or sink? How about the plastic cap?
- Have your child tell you which precipitation by placing the wooden block and cap on the water. What happens? Next, have your child hold both items under water and gently release them. What happens now?
- Have your child observe a wooden block. Tell your children to squeeze it into a flat shape and drop it into the water. Does it float or sink? Give your child another go. Does it float or sink?
- Have your child observe another piece of aluminum foil. Help him or her shape it into a ball. Have your child carefully place it on top of the water. Does the foil float now?

**Tips for working with teachers and schools**

**What to do:**
- Tell your child’s school. Schedule an appointment and ask your child about science learning centers or displays. Are there science learning centers or displays? Ask for specific things that you can do to help your child improve.
- Find out about the school’s science curriculum. Ask for a school handbook. Is it available? Do you see science learning centers or displays? Ask for specific things that you can do to help your child improve.
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