

Propelled Boats



Transportation

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Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

What better way to explore how boats work than making your very own self-propelling boat? Using everyday household items, children will create miniature boats, decorating them just the way they like. Once ready, it's off to the water to wind them up and watch them propel forward all on their own!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Emotional

Indicator:

Accepting challenges and taking risks when learning.

Skills:

Positive attitudes towards learning.



Materials

- 2 small yogurt cups
- Medium-sized rectangular plastic container
- 2 popsicle sticks
- Hot glue
- Super glue
- Duct tape
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Elastic band
- Bath tub, sink, or large plastic container
- Water



Instructions

Step 1: Super glue a popsicle stick to either side of your medium-sized rectangular plastic container, having them stick out 2-3 inches from the back. Reinforce the sticks with duct tape.

Step 2: Hot glue the lid to the container.

Step 3: Hot glue the small yogurt cup upside down onto the lid of the rectangular container. Let dry.

Step 4: While the glue is drying, take the second yogurt cup and cut a large square the width of the boat if possible. On one side, cut two slits approximately one inch apart, going halfway down the square.

Step 5: Decorate the boat with paint. Let dry.

Step 6: Weave an elastic band over the popsicle sticks and through the plastic square.

Step 7: Fill a bath, sink or large container with water.

Step 8: Place the boat in the water and wind up the plastic piece. Let it go and watch the boat move itself forward!



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Involve your kiddo more in the construction of the boat.

For toddlers: An adult will need to do most of the construction, with the kiddos contributing most to the decoration.



Playful Questions

- What types of boats are there?
- Have you ever been on a boat?
- What will happen if we wind the plastic the opposite way?
- Where would you want to go on a boat?
- How does a boat float on the water?