Learning at bath time

Everyday learning with your child • Ages 3–5

Talk, notice and try things together. Splashing, pouring and playing can build big skills.



Small moments, big learning

A cup, a small jug and a floating toy are enough. Follow your child's interests and enjoy talking and playing together.

Use your home language. Keep bath time gentle and predictable, adapting play to what feels comfortable for your child.

Talk about what happens

Use words such as wet, dry, splash, drip and bubble. Describe what your child is doing. Pause and give them time to reply.

"The water is trickling out. What happens if we tip more?"

Pour, fill and compare

Fill and empty plastic cups. Compare full, empty, more and less. Find out how many small cupfuls fill a bigger container.

"This cup is nearly full. What will happen next?"

Count and sing together

Count a few bath toys, touching each one once. Sing a familiar counting song. Move one toy away and notice what changes.

"We had three ducks. One swam away. How many now?"

Explore floating and sinking

Choose large, clean, bath-safe objects. Guess whether each will float or sink, then try it. Talk about what you notice.

"The boat stays on top. What do you think this will do?"

Make up a bath-time story

Pretend a toy is sailing, swimming or going on a rescue. Take turns adding ideas. Use first, next and finally to tell the story.

"Where is the boat going? Who will it meet?"

Practise caring for yourself

Let your child wash their arms with a cloth, put toys away and help dry themselves. Name body parts and talk through the routine.

"First we wash, then rinse. What do we do next?"

Make it right for your child

Start simple: name a toy, fill a cup or count 1–3 ducks.
Add a challenge: compare cupfuls, explain a prediction or retell a bath-time story.

Stay close, join in and enjoy. A few playful minutes are enough.

Stay within arm's reach throughout. Never leave a child alone or with another child. Have everything ready; check water is comfortably warm. Empty the bath after use.

Bath safety: Child Accident Prevention Trust • capt.org.uk/safe-baby-bath-time/

St. Philip's CE Primary Academy
Working Together