Explore buoyancy by playing Sink or Float.

Buoyancy is the upward force of a fluid (liquid or gas) on an object that is fully or partially submerged in the fluid.

Gravity is the downward force of a body or planet (Earth) has that pulls objects towards its center.

MATERIALS

• Tub or pan of water
• Objects that are safe to be placed in water

Experiment continued on next page...
K–2 GRADE EXPLORATION

Find random objects that are safe to place into water.
Make a prediction using a thumb up (float) or thumb down (sink).
Place the object in water to see if it sinks or floats.

Here are some questions you can explore together.

• What do the objects that sink have in common?
• What do the objects that float have in common?
• Find two objects made of the same material, one that sinks and one that floats.
  Why do you think one sinks and the other floats?
• Find two objects that are the same size, one that sinks and one that floats.
  Why do you think one sinks and the other floats?
• When something sinks, what happens to the water level?
• When something floats, what happens to the water level?