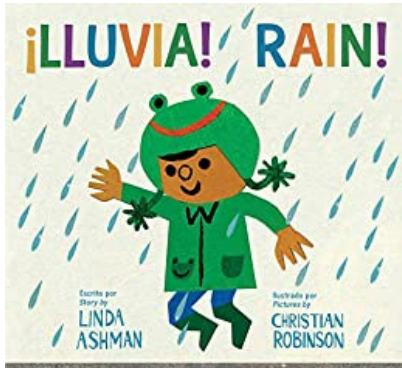


Activity Guide

Rain!

by Linda Ashman



It's a rainy day in the city and an excited little boy exclaims, "Rain!" while a grumpy man grumbles, "Rain." Follow the boy as he splashes in puddles and the old man complains about the weather. Can the boy's enthusiasm cheer up the grouchy man and turn the day around?

¿Did you know?

Asking questions about what will happen next, comparing ideas, and making predictions are all parts of developing Critical Thinking! Let your child practice making predictions and asking questions as you read *Rain* together.

Talk about it!

In *Rain* the old man and boy feel very differently about the rainy day. Discuss the idea of moods with your child and ask:

What does it feel like to be in a bad mood?

What does it feel like to be in a good mood?

How do you feel when someone close to you is sad or grumpy?

Play: Puddle Fun!

Grab your raincoat and boots and jump, hop, stomp, and kick puddles! Puddle jumping develops gross motor movement as well as balance, strength, and agility. While puddle jumping talk to your child and ask:

- What kind of jump do you think will make the biggest splash?
- Do you think you can jump or kick all the water out of the puddle?

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Create!

Sink or Float

Sensory bags allow children to explore, discover, imagine, create, and learn while engaging many of their senses. Sensory play impacts many areas of development including language skills by helping to develop vocabulary describing what they see, and feel.

Materials:

- Paper and pen/marker
- A large bowl or plastic container (preferably see through)
- Objects such as feather, Lego, bath toy, crayon, ping pong ball, plastic utensil, pencil toy cars, coins, metal spoon, eraser, dry pasta, etc.
- Food coloring (optional)
- Sponge for clean up

Directions:

1. Label one piece of paper "SINK" and another "FLOAT". Make predictions with each object and sort before testing.
2. Fill the bowl or container with water. If using, place a few drops of food coloring into the water. Coloring the water not only adds a fun color but will help your child see water that has spilled allowing for more thorough clean up.
3. Test each object and talk about why they think the object floats or sinks to the bottom. (Consider adding objects whose outcome might surprise them like fruit or wood.)

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For Younger children: Allow children to experiment with objects and water. Talk about the object with your child and say "it floats, it is staying at the top" or "it sinks, it is going to the bottom".



Try this: Enjoying puddle play outdoors? Collect a few different objects--a pebble, a leaf, a pinecone, a feather. Bring them to the puddle and ask your child to make predictions about which objects will sink or float?

Try this too! "Magnetic or Non-magnetic": Follow the directions for "Sink or Float" using a magnet and household objects. Make predictions if the objects are magnetic or not.