

Connecting With Your Child

Water Scavenger Hunt

To help your child learn more about water and how it moves and changes, lead your child on a water scavenger hunt. Help your child identify all the places in your home and the surrounding area where forms of water are present. Make sure to help your child identify not only liquid water and ice (solid water) but also evidence of water vapor (water as a gas in the air). Also, guide your child to notice how heating and cooling can change the form of water and where insulating materials are being used (insulated lunch bag, etc.).

Examples include the following:

1. Liquid water from the sink, bathtub, or toilet
2. Ice (solid water) in the freezer, in a drink, or outside on a winter day
3. Water that came from the air (e.g., condensation on the side of a glass of ice water, on the windshield, or on the grass in the morning)

Help your child understand that all forms of water—solid, liquid, and gas—are water. The water particles are the same in each form; they simply move around differently.

Here are some questions to discuss with your child:

1. How are all forms of water similar?
2. What are the characteristics of different forms of water?
3. How do heating and cooling affect water and ice?
4. What are some examples of condensation? (Examples include dew on the grass, a fogged-up windshield or bathroom mirror, and drops on the outside of a glass of ice water.)