Sink or Float?

Where Does It Happen In Nature?

Beginner: Collect natural materials such as rocks, leaves, sticks, seashells, etc. Drop items into a container of water and together predict whether an object will float or sink.
[Tip]: Try counting together how many objects you collected. Talk and compare the weight of each object

Intermediate: Collect natural materials such as rocks, leaves, sticks, seashells, etc. Separate the objects into a float or sink pile, and count how many are in each. Drop items into a container of water and together make see which objects float or sink.
[Tip]: Count how many objects floated and sank, talking about each one of their buoyancies.

Experienced: Collect natural materials such as rocks, leaves, sticks, seashells, etc. Drop items into a container of water and ask your child to predict whether an object will float or sink.
[Tip]: Talk about the density of each object, as if an object is heavy and compact, it has a high density. If an object is light and takes up a lot of space, it has a low density.

Why is this important? Weight, buoyancy, and density are factors that determine whether objects sink or float in water

References: Hsin, C.-T., & Wu, H.-K. (2011). Using scaffolding strategies to promote young children's scientific understandings of floating and sinking. Journal of Science Education and Technology, 20(5), 656–666.