



Skipping Stones

Practicing Observation and Prediction

Beginner: Skip stones at a local pond or the beach. Count how many times you can get the stone to skip.

[Tip]: Try different types of stones (e.g., flat, heavy).

Intermediate: Have your child choose stones they think will be best at skipping. Count how many skips you can get the stones to make.

[Tip]: Talk about the common properties of the stones. Use words like flatter, heavier, smoother.

Experienced: Have your child choose stones they think will be best at skipping. Count how many skips you can get the stones to make.

[Tip]: Using the chosen stone, arrange them from the stone they think will skip the least number of times to the one they predict will skip the most. Test out their predictions!

Why is this important? Making observations, categorizations, and predictions is a key skill necessary for success in science and math.

References: Lee, C. K., & Ensel Bailie, P. (2019). Nature-based education: using nature trails as a tool to promote inquiry-based science and math learning in young children. *Science Activities: Classroom Projects and Curriculum Ideas*, 56(4), 147–158. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00368121.2020.1742641>