



Activity Guide: August

Items in *green* are included in your PBL kit from CMNH

Ages 0-24 months:

- **Shake, shake, shake!**
 - Set out the *nesting block* set and some small (but still baby-safe) items that will fit inside them (or at least fit inside the bigger ones!)
 - Show babies how to place an item inside the blocks and then shake, shake, shake!
 - Explore the different sounds and the different ways babies will try shaking the nesting blocks, dumping out the items, mixing items up, and so much more!
- For older babies/toddlers, put items in the boxes and have them guess what is making that sound! "Is it a *bath buddy* or a *shaky egg*?" Then have them choose something to put in the box and you can guess what is making the sound!

The great thing about this "shake bar" activity is it will give babies a sense of accomplishment and independence. They get to pick what they put in the blocks as well as how they interact with the items once they're in there!



Ages 2-3 years:

● **Keep afloat! Make some boats!**

- Invite little ones to create (or just experiment with) little boats made of cardboard & aluminum foil.
 - Use cardboard as a base and then build a simple boat shape around it using aluminum foil
 - Put some water in the **mixing bowls** to hold the boats or use something larger like a bin, plastic pool, or sensory/water table
- Encourage little ones to put **animals, Duplos**, or other items into the boats. How many items can they put in and still have the boat stay afloat? What happens if you take away the tin foil and just have the cardboard?
 - Try putting all items of the same color! Or the same shape! See where this fun activity leads!

Help children get some inspiration about what kind of boats to make or imagine their boats are by reading [Boats on the Bay](#) written by Jeanne Walker Harvey and illustrated by Grady McFerrin. If you're looking for a sweet boat story about getting bigger and learning to share, try [Little Bear's Little Boat](#) written by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.



Ages 4-5 years:

● Guided play: Play Ice Cream Store

- Fill a bin with pom poms or cotton balls, **small bowls from the counting critter set**, and your **sensory bin tools**
 - OPTIONAL: Make some ice cream cones (or help children make them) out of cardstock
 - Invite children to play at the ice cream store!
 - Have children take turns placing orders and being the scooper. Have orders be color specific (with pom poms) or number specific (three scoops = three pom poms), ask for a cone or a bowl, you could even add some sequins or other small pieces to be sprinkles on top!
- Extend the activity by building a little ice cream window using the **cardboard blocks!**

For an adorable book all about ice cream, try [Gorilla Loves Vanilla](#) written by Chae Strathie and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne. In this fun story, a group of animals come into an ice cream shop and make all kinds of requests—children might have fun acting out different scenarios of animals wanting ice cream after reading this story!

