

We Skoolhouse _____



Ready-Made Curriculum: Bubbles



Introduction: Bubbles

This unit invites children to explore the ephemeral, magical world of bubbles — from their delicate structures and glimmering surfaces to their surprising roles in nature. Children will observe, touch, chase, and create bubbles while wondering: What are bubbles made of? Why are they round? Can they be other shapes? What can bubbles teach us about air, water, and movement?

As the weeks unfold, children will investigate how bubbles form, how they behave, and how living creatures use bubbles to survive. They will move from simple sensory play toward scientific observation, artistic expression, and symbolic thinking. This unit emphasizes slow, hands-on exploration, open-ended inquiry, and collaborative discovery, while rotating a small set of core books to support deep meaning-making.

The activities and suggestions included are not directives, but invitations—ways to meet all learners without pressure or expectation. Observe, document, and trust in each child's natural drive to explore. Allow learning to unfold with authenticity and joy.

This guide includes daily prompts, journal ideas, suggested vocabulary, recommended books, and ways to incorporate the unit into centers. Use what fits, adjust what's needed, and let the children lead the way.

Books Used Throughout the Unit:

- Pop! A Book About Bubbles by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- Bubble Trouble by Margaret Mahy
- Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop by Mark Weakland
- Bubble Homes and Fish Farts by Fiona Bayrock

Vocabulary

Bubble, sphere, round, float, pop, surface, film, air, gas, liquid, shape, transparent, shimmer, rainbow, fragile, cluster, layer, tension, blow, wand, foam, underwater, habitat, protect, creature, observe, reflect, investigate

Week 1: What Are Bubbles?

Focus Concept: Children observe and explore what bubbles are, noticing their structure, behavior, and how they form.

Weekly Objective: This week lays the foundation by helping children describe bubbles using their senses, learn what they are made of, and begin to make their own bubbles.

Monday – Exploring Bubbles

Morning Meeting

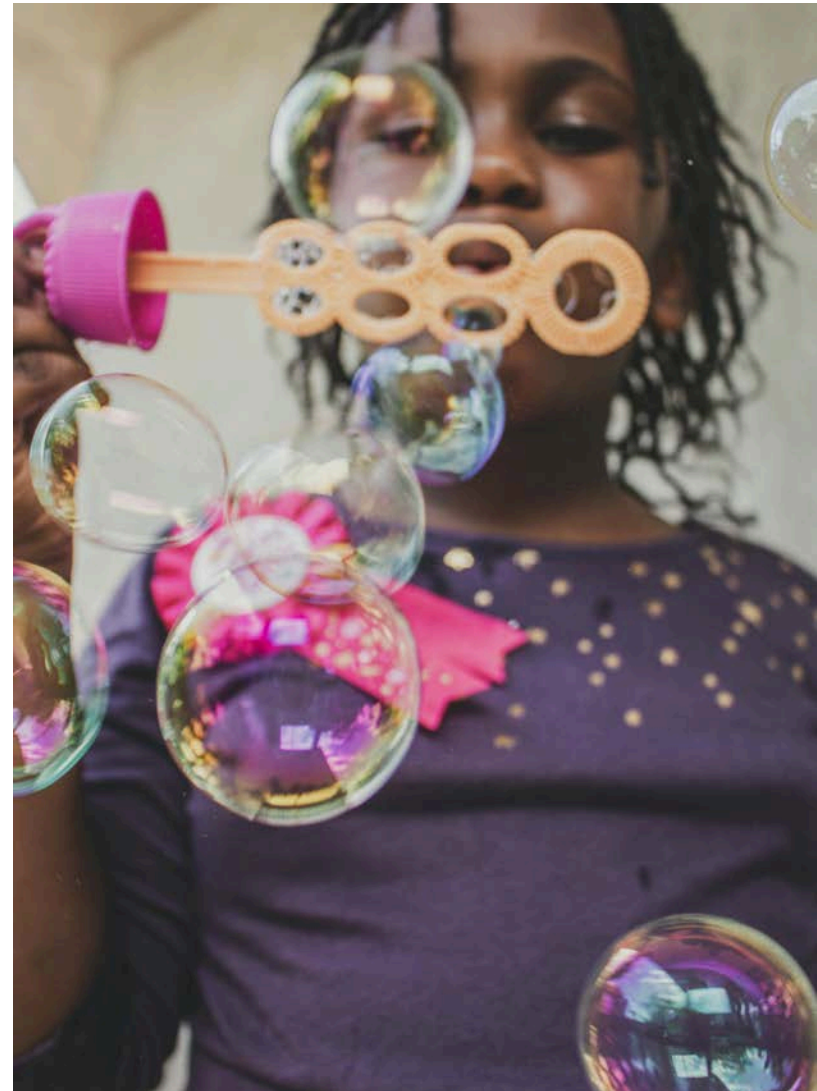
- Read Aloud: Pop! A Book About Bubbles
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “What do you know about bubbles?”
 - “Where do bubbles come from?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Table Exploration — Set up trays of bubble solution with a variety of wands,
- Optional: Place mirrors beneath the trays to reflect the bubbles' colors and shapes.
- Offer black paper as a background to catch and observe popped bubble marks. Children explore freely, using their senses to watch, touch, blow, and pop bubbles.
- Optional Journal Prompt: “My bubbles looked like...”

Closing Circle

- Gather together to share first impressions. Ask: “What did you notice about your bubbles?”



Tuesday – What Are Bubbles Made of?

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Pop! A Book About Bubbles (reread selected pages on bubble structure)
- Discussion Prompts:
 - "What's inside a bubble?"
 - "What is the bubble's skin made of?"

Follow-Up Investigation

- Soap + Water Experiments — Provide clear cups of water, various soaps (dish soap, shampoo, hand soap), and measuring spoons.
- Children mix different ratios and blow bubbles to see which solutions make strong, stretchy bubbles. Offer trays, droppers, and whisks. Document which mixtures work best.
- Journal Prompt: "The best bubbles came from..."

Closing Circle

- Reflect on what mixtures made the strongest bubbles. Children can share which soap they liked using and how their bubbles behaved

Wednesday – How Do Bubbles Move?

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop
- Discussion Prompts:
 - "What do you notice about bubbles when they float in the air?"
 - "What do you think makes them move the way they do?"

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Movement Observation Walk — Blow bubbles outside or near an open window/fan and watch what they do.
- Children can try blowing them gently vs. with more force and see how they behave differently.
- Provide clipboards or sketch boards for children to draw the paths they see bubbles take in the air.

Closing Circle

- Reflect: "Did bubbles all move the same way?"



Thursday – Where Do We See Bubbles

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubble Trouble
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “Where have you seen bubbles before?”
 - “What places have bubbles (bathtubs, soda, oceans)?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Hunt Walk — Take clipboards and magnifying glasses to explore the classroom and outdoor spaces. Look for natural bubbles (puddles, sink foam, fish tank filter,). Children can sketch or photograph findings.
- If no bubbles are found: Invite children to create their own bubble source to continue the hunt (mixing a bit of soap with water in a tray or stirring water quickly to make foam).
- Journal Prompt: “I saw bubbles at...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect and share findings from the hunt.



Friday – Bubble Art

Morning Meeting

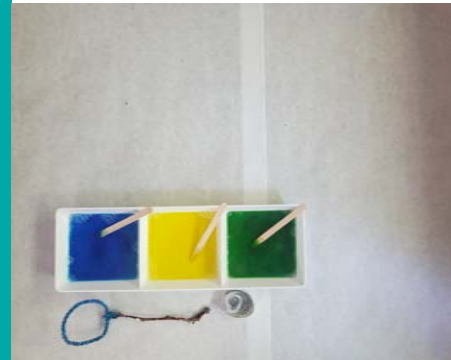
- Read Aloud: Bubble Trouble
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “What do bubbles look like up close?”
 - What colors do you see in them?

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Art - tape butcher paper to the floor or outside surface and mix bubble solution with a few drops of watercolor in small containers.
- Welcome children dip wands and blow bubbles over the paper, letting them pop to leave colorful prints.
- Optional: Invite children to measure bubble circles with measuring tape—compare biggest, smallest, and how far apart they are.

Closing Circle

- Reflect: “What did you notice about the marks the bubbles made?”



Week 2: Bubble Shapes & Structures

Focus Concept: Children investigate why bubbles are round and whether they can take on other shapes.

Weekly Objective: Children will explore bubble geometry, test different tools, and observe how bubbles join, stack, and behave in space.

Monday – Why Are Bubbles Round?

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Pop! A Book About Bubbles
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “Why do bubbles always seem round?”
 - “Can bubbles stretch or change shape?”
 - “What makes their skin hold together?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Observing Bubble Shapes — Offer bubble trays with standard wands and straws (optional magnifying glasses).
- Place black construction paper and mirrors beneath the trays to enhance visibility.
- Encourage children to gently catch and rest bubbles on surfaces or their hands (wear cotton gloves to prevent popping). Invite them to observe the bubble's shape from all angles and sketch what they see.
- Journal Prompt: “My bubble looked like...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect: Share bubble sketches and discuss: “What shape did you see the most?”



Tuesday – Can Bubble Be Other Shapes?

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Pop! A Book About Bubbles (revisit pages showing bubble films & shape diagrams)
- Discussion Prompts:
 - Can bubbles be squares or triangles?
 - What happens if we change the wand's shape?

Follow-Up Investigation

- Pipe Cleaner Wand Workshop — Offer pipe cleaners, beads, and tape to design shaped wands (triangles, stars, squares). Children test their wands in bubble trays.
- Journal Prompt: "I made a ___ wand and my bubble was..."

Closing Circle

- Reflect: "Did your bubbles look like your wand shape or something else?"



Wednesday – Bubbles in Nature (Still Life Drawing)

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop
- Discussion Prompts:
 - "Where do we see bubbles in nature?"
 - "What makes something a bubble, even if it's not floating in the air?"

Follow-Up Investigation

- Still Life Bubble Drawing Provocation — Display real-life photographs of bubbles in nature (dew on grass, puddle bubbles, mud bubbles, etc.).
- Provide clipboards & drawing tools (pencils, charcoal, oil pastels). If accessible, invite outdoor sketching while observing real dew or water bubbles.
- Journal Prompt: "I saw bubbles in..."

Closing Circle

- Display the sketches for a mini gallery walk. Reflect: "What details did you notice that you might miss if you weren't looking so closely?"



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Thursday – Mixing and Making Bubbles

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Book: Pop! A Book About Bubbles
- Discussion Prompts:
 - What do bubbles need to form?
 - What happens when we mix different things into water?

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Recipe Lab — Offer simple bubble-making ingredients (warm water, dish soap, a small amount of sugar or glycerin).
- Provide clear cups, spoons, measuring tools, and trays. Children work in small groups to mix their own bubble solution.
- After mixing, they test their solutions with straws and wands, observing how size, strength, and shimmer change.
- Journal Prompt: "I made my bubbles with..."

Closing Circle

- Reflect: "What worked best to make big, strong bubbles? How did your bubble recipe change your bubbles?"

Friday – Bubble Washing Play

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Book: Bubble Trouble
- Discussion Prompts:
 - "Where do we use bubbles in real life?"
 - "How do bubbles help us?"

Follow-Up Investigation

- Washing Station Play — Offer rotating tubs of warm soapy water with sponges, washcloths, scrub brushes, and towels.
- Children wash baby dolls, toy cars, play dishes, and doll clothes. Add drying racks, clothespins, and small laundry baskets for sorting. (Pick tub themes based on children's interests and materials available). This is a great provocation to keep available in different centers over the course of the investigation.

Closing Circle

- Reflect: "What did the bubbles do while you washed? How did it feel to take care of something?"



Week 3: Bubbles in Nature

Focus Concept: Bubbles are used by living creatures to survive, communicate, and protect.

Weekly Objective: Children will investigate how animals use bubbles, representing their discoveries through art and building.

Monday – Animals That Use Bubbles

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubble Homes and Fish Farts
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “Do animals make bubbles?”
 - “Why might animals use bubbles?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Creatures Gallery Walk — Set up a photo gallery of bubble-using animals (bubble-nest fish, frogs, spittlebugs, whales making bubble rings, pistol shrimp snapping bubbles).
- Provide clipboards for children to record what they notice or invite preliminary sketching.
- Start a class “Animals That Use Bubbles” chart to add facts throughout the week.
- Journal Prompt: “The ___ makes bubbles to...”

Closing Circle

- Gather around the gallery to name favorite discoveries. Ask: “What surprised you about how animals use bubbles?”



Tuesday – Still Life Sketching Bubble Creatures

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubble Homes and Fish Farts
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “How do these bubbles help the animals?”
 - “What shapes or patterns do you see in their bubbles?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Still Life Bubble Animal Drawing — Offer printed close-up images or of bubble-using animals.
- Provide clipboards, pencils, charcoal, crayons, or oil pastels.
- Journal Prompt: “I drew a ___ and its bubbles...”

Closing Circle

- Do a gallery walk of the drawings. Reflect: “What details did you see that told you the animal used bubbles?”



Wednesday – Building Bubble Habitats

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop by Mark Weakland (reread)
- Discussion Prompts:
 - What do animals use bubbles for?
 - How could bubbles become a safe home?

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Habitat Construction — Provide cotton balls, tissue, clear beads, recycled containers, foil, clay, and glue.
- Children create small bubble-inspired nests or habitats for toy animals or insects.
 - Optional: Offer magnifying glasses to explore their creations or to reference details on images.
- Journal Prompt: “My bubble home is for...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect: “How does your bubble home keep your animal safe?”



Thursday – Bubble Creature Role Play

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubble Homes and Fish Farts
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “How do these animals make bubbles?”
 - “What does their body do to make bubbles come out?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Creature Dramatic Play — Transform part of the classroom into a “bubble habitat zone” using blue fabrics, scarves, and soundscapes.
- Invite children to act as bubble-making animals: frogs blowing bubble nests, dolphins or whales making bubble rings, pistol shrimp snapping, etc. Offer straws, scarves, and shallow trays of bubbles to enhance play.
- Optional: Flip on a bubble machine for more fun!
- Journal Prompt: “I was a ___ and my bubbles helped me...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect: “How did it feel to become a bubble creature? What did your bubbles help you do?”

Friday – Bubble Creature Portraits

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubble Trouble by Margaret Mahy
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “What bubble animal is your favorite?”
 - “What makes it special?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Mixed Media Bubble Creature Portraits — Children choose a bubble-using animal and create a portrait using loose parts (tissue paper, foil, yarn, natural materials, drawing tools).
- This can be transient (non permanent) or permanent piece (using glue or tape).
- Optional: Add real images of different animals that create bubbles.
- Journal Prompt: “My animal uses bubbles to...”

Closing Circle

- Hold a gallery walk of the portraits. Reflect: “What did you learn from animals about bubbles?”



Week 4: Bubbles as Symbols, Stories, and Celebrations

Focus Concept: Bubbles can carry our feelings, ideas, and stories — and bring our community together.

Weekly Objective: Children will use bubbles as symbols to express emotions, identity, and imagination, and reflect on their learning through art, play, and celebration.

Monday – Bubble Feelings

Morning Meeting

- Read Aloud: Bubble Trouble by Margaret Mahy
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “How do bubbles make you feel?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Emotions Painting — Offer trays of bubble solution mixed with liquid watercolor or food coloring. Children blow colored bubbles (with wands or straws) onto paper.
- Children can then suggest how colors can represent their different feelings.
- Optional: Encourage children to talk about how each bubble “feeling” moves, pops, or floats.
- Journal Prompt: “My ___ bubble is...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect: “What feelings floated on your bubbles today? What feelings popped?”



Tuesday – Bubble Storytelling

Morning Meeting

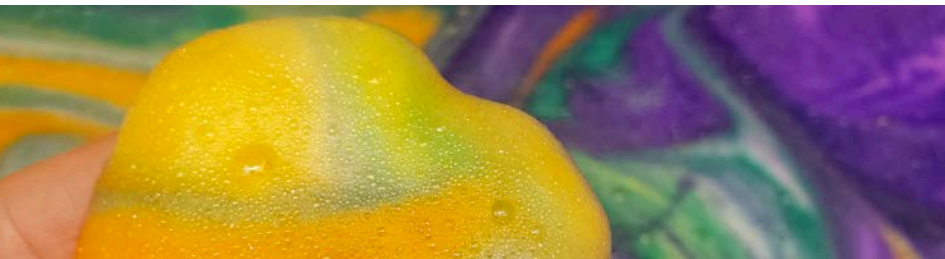
- Book: Pop! A Book About Bubbles
- Discussion Prompts:
 - “What would happen in a world made of bubbles?”
 - “What could live inside a bubble?”

Follow-Up Investigation

- Colored Suds Sensory Table — Fill sensory bins or shallow trays with bubble solution whipped into thick foam (use hand mixers or egg beaters).
- Optional: Tint sections of the foam with a few drops of liquid watercolor or food coloring to create colored suds.
- Add small world figures, story stones, or loose parts (shells, gems, buttons). Children freely explore and imagine stories as they move characters through the colorful foam.
- Journal Prompt: “My bubble world had...” Journal Prompt: “My bubble story was about...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect: “What happened in your bubble world?”



Wednesday – Bubble Dance

Morning Meeting

- Book: Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop (reread for movement inspiration)
- Discussion Prompts:
 - How do bubbles move?
 - Can our bodies move like bubbles?

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Movement + Dance — Play music and offer large scarves, ribbons, and a bubble machine or large bubble wands.
- Children dance and float like bubbles around the space, exploring lightness, swirling, rising, and popping.
- Journal Prompt: “I danced like a bubble by...”

Closing Circle

- Reflect: “How did your body feel when you moved like a bubble?”



Thursday – Bubble Wands as Gifts

Morning Meeting

- Book: Bubble Trouble
- Discussion Prompts:
 - Can we give bubbles to someone?
 - How could we make something to share our bubbles?

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Wand Workshop — Offer pipe cleaners, twigs, beads, ribbon, and tape for children to design their own bubble wands as gifts.
- Optional: Provide tags to write or dictate who it's for.
- Journal Prompt: "I made my wand for..."

Closing Circle

- Children share who they made their wand for and why. Reflect: "How does it feel to give something you made?"

Friday – Bubble Celebration

Morning Meeting

- Book: Have children decide on their favorite book about bubbles
- Discussion Prompts:
 - "What did bubbles teach us?"
 - "What is your favorite bubble memory?"

Follow-Up Investigation

- Bubble Festival — Set up rotating stations from the whole unit: giant bubble trays, bubble painting, bubble car wash, bubble creature small world, and bubble story trays. Play music, flip on the bubble machine, invite families if possible, and document and display the children's work and words.
- Journal Prompt: "My favorite bubble thing was..."

Closing Circle

- Celebrate each child's voice. Ask: "What are you still wondering about bubbles?"



About Centers, Provocations, and Materials

The following center setups and materials are designed to support the investigation across the unit. The intention is not to do everything at once—but to select, rotate, and adapt based on the children's interests, developmental needs, and the rhythm of the group.

These ideas should be seen as options to choose from, not a checklist to complete. Overloading the space with too many choices can overwhelm young children. Instead, offer a small number of materials at a time, and observe how children engage with them before introducing more.

You might choose to:

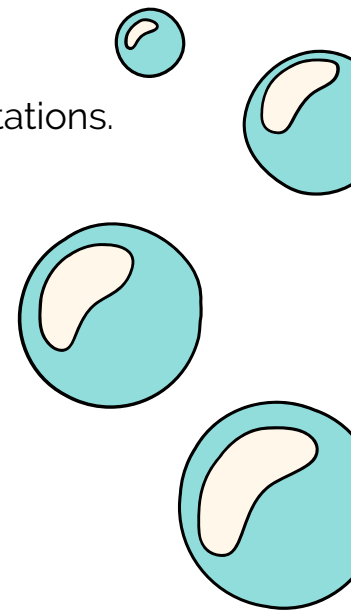
- Keep certain materials consistent for multiple weeks to allow for repetition and mastery.
- Rotate in new elements slowly to spark renewed interest or deeper thinking.
- Modify invitations to become more complex or more accessible as needed.

Children should be welcomed to:

- Make choices about how and where they work within the classroom.
- Move materials between areas (when appropriate) to support their ideas or projects.
- Combine materials across centers to create more layered and meaningful representations.
- Take responsibility for the tools they use by helping to return them when finished.

While autonomy is encouraged, a sense of shared care and responsibility is expected. In all cases, the role of the adult is to:

- Observe how materials are used and what thinking is emerging.
- Document children's approaches, choices, and discoveries.
- Decide when to step back, when to scaffold, and when to offer something new.





Science & Discovery Center

Purpose: Support observation, experimentation, and inquiry about how bubbles form, behave, and appear in the natural world.

Materials & Setup Options:

- **Bubble Investigation Station:** Set up trays of bubble solution, pipettes, straws, and various wands (traditional, shaped, pipe-cleaner). Include mirrors or black paper under trays for clearer visibility.
- **Bubble in Nature Table:** Display real photos of dew on grass, mud bubbles, creek foam, soda fizz, and waterfall mist. Add magnifying glasses, tweezers, and specimen jars with lids for safe observation.
- **Bubble Creatures Display:** Provide laminated photos of animals that use bubbles (frogs, fish, dolphins, insects, pistol shrimp) with fact cards and labels for children to match.
- **Bubble Mixture Lab:** Offer clear cups, droppers, spoons, and ingredients (water, dish soap, sugar, glycerin) for children to mix their own bubble solutions and test results.

Notes: Include clipboards, blank labeling cards, and vocabulary words (bubble, air, gas, surface tension, float, pop, fragile, transparent, protect, nest, habitat).

Blocks & Construction

Purpose: Support engineering, problem-solving, and design thinking using curved forms, balance challenges, and bubble-inspired structures.

Materials & Setup Options:

- **Bubble Habitat Building:** Provide cotton balls, clear beads, tissue paper, foil, clay, and small figurines to construct bubble-inspired nests and dens.
- **Foam + Water Blocks:** Add foam blocks that can be used in water trays to test buoyancy and bubble formation.
- **Pipe Cleaner & Straw Structures:** Invite children to build 3D frames to dip into bubble solution (cube, pyramid, etc.) and observe resulting bubbles.
- **Clear Cup + Lid Towers:** Offer clear cups, plastic lids, and mirrors to stack and observe light refractions like bubbles.

Notes: Photograph structures before they fall or dissolve. Add prompt cards: "Can you make a home from bubbles?" "Can you make a bubble shape tower?"

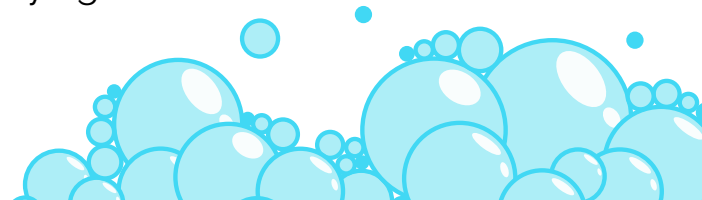
Sensory Table

Purpose: Encourage tactile exploration, fine motor development, and open-ended sensory storytelling with bubbles and foam.

Materials & Setup Options:

- **Colored Suds Foam:** Whip bubble solution into thick foam and tint with liquid watercolor or food coloring. Offer spoons, scoops, and small figures for storytelling.
- **Bubble Tray Exploration:** Set shallow trays of bubble solution with various wands, mirrors, and pipettes for free blowing.
- **Foam Sculptures:** Provide bubble foam with straws for blowing clusters and building temporary bubble towers.
- **Water + Bubbles Play:** Add whisks, egg beaters, basters, funnels, and cups to soapy water for mixing and experimenting with bubble size.

Notes: Offer towels, waterproof smocks, and trays for drying art or tools.





Dramatic Play

Purpose: Foster symbolic thinking, storytelling, and social-emotional play through bubble-themed pretend scenarios and care routines.

Materials & Setup Options:

- **Bubble Baby Bath:** Set up a baby care area with dolls, towels, washcloths, basins of soapy water, lotion bottles, clothesline, and clothespins.
- **Car Wash Station:** Include toy cars, sponges, spray bottles, scrub brushes, drying cloths, and ramps to roll cars down after washing.
- **Laundry + Dish Washing:** Offer small tubs, doll clothes, baskets, scrub brushes, and drying racks for washing and hanging.

Notes: Rotate materials based upon the interest and engagement of the children. Provide dress-up smocks or aprons for wet play.

Art Studio

Purpose: Foster creative expression, observation, and symbolic representation of bubbles through varied media.

Materials & Setup Options:

- **Bubble Painting Prints:** Colored bubble solution, straws, and paper for blowing bubbles and pressing prints.
- **Still Life Bubble Drawing:** Photos of bubbles in nature, charcoal, graphite, and pastels for close observational sketching.
- **Bubble Creature Portraits:** Tissue, foil, cotton, and loose parts for collage animals that use bubbles.
- **Bubble Wand Design:** Pipe cleaners, beads, ribbon, tape, and tags for children to create and label their own bubble wands.

Notes: Display work on an “Our Bubble Discoveries” wall with children’s quotes. Offer mirrors to observe reflections and shapes while working.

Literacy Center

Purpose: Support vocabulary development, oral language, and symbolic thinking around bubbles through books, labeling, and storytelling prompts.

Materials & Setup Options:

- **Book Basket:** Core books (Pop!, Bubble Trouble, Bubbles Float, Bubbles Pop, Bubble Homes and Fish Farts) with soft seating.
- **Bubble Vocabulary Cards:** Include real images with words (bubble, float, pop, shimmer, habitat, nest, creature, protect, sphere, cluster).
- **Story Stones + Journals:** Painted stones with bubbles, animals, water, and colors to spark storytelling, with blank journals nearby for dictation or drawing.
- **Documentation Station:** Provide clipboards, sentence starters (“Today I saw...”, “My bubble was...”) and a space to post sketches and notes from science or art centers.

Notes: Offer voice recorders for children to audio-record bubble stories or facts to play back for the group.





**“Two bubbles found they had rainbows on their curves.
They flickered out saying: ‘It was worth being a bubble,
just to have held that rainbow thirty seconds.’”**

— Carl Sandburgd