Run sheet, Sink or Float

Goal. Every girl says what she thinks a thing will do in water, tries it, and says what surprised her.

Before you start

- One shallow bowl of water on the floor or a low table, filled halfway. Never a deep bucket. Stay within arm's reach of it the whole time.
- Gather found things, two of each kind: palm-sized stones, leaves, sticks, large caps, spoons, paper scraps. **Test every one in your own bowl the night before.**
- Over twelve girls: a second bowl, or pairs sharing one thing and one guess.
- At each place: Sheet A, Sheet B, a pencil or one between two. Sleeves up before you start.

The clock, 30 minutes

- 0 to 4 min: sleeves up, hands out, the signal
- 4 to 11 min: guess first, then drop it in
- 11 to 18 min: one thing each
- 18 to 25 min: another one like it
- 25 to 30 min: say what surprised you

Run 30 with a new group. In 45: 0 to 6, 6 to 17, 17 to 26, 26 to 38, 38 to 45. In 60: 0 to 8, 8 to 22, 22 to 34, 34 to 50, 50 to 60. With mostly four-year-olds, shorten the middle, never the close.

What you do

1. Set the bowl down. Two rules: "Hands stay out until it is your turn. Nobody drinks this water."
2. Teach the signal: hand high for stays on top, hand low for goes to the bottom. Practise both twice.
3. Hold up a stone. Say: "Do not say it. On three, show me your hand." Count the hands, then drop it in.
4. Ask: "Who had it going down? Who had it staying up?" Take no reasons, give none.
5. Give each girl one thing. Hand out Sheet A: "Draw it. Mark your guess before it goes in the water."
6. Go round one at a time. She shows her mark, puts her thing in, then marks what happened.
7. Ask her: "Same as your guess?" She marks SAME or NOT THE SAME. Say: "A guess that comes out different is still a good guess."
8. Give each girl a second thing of the same kind. Hand out Sheet B. Guess and mark first, every time.
9. Ask three girls: "Why do you think so?" Take every answer, give none.
10. Empty the water out. In the circle, each girl says one thing that surprised her. Repeating is allowed.

Watch for

1. A girl puts her hand up or down before anything touches the water, without looking at her neighbour first.
2. A girl leaves her guess mark alone when the result is different, and marks NOT THE SAME.
3. A girl says out loud what she thought and what happened: "I said down. It stayed up."

What goes wrong most. The room copies the first hand that goes up. Say "eyes on your own hand", count down from three, take every signal at once.

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