



Chapter 1: Matter

Dear Parent:

After completing this chapter, your child will know how to measure and compare length, volume, mass, and temperature of objects.

Your child will also learn how to compare matter using some of its properties, such as size, shape, color, texture, and hardness; how to identify the states of matter; how water changes state; and how thermal energy moves by conduction.



You may wish to do the following labs at home with your child. They are easy and fun!

Float or Sink Test and measure the ability of ten small objects to sink or float. Put each into a bowl of water one at a time. Use a clock or stopwatch to measure whether each object can float for 30 seconds. Record your findings by making a 2-column list of objects that sink and objects that float.

Change of States Fill two plastic cups with the same amount of water. Mark the water level. Put one cup in a freezer and one on a shelf. Predict how cooling will change the water. After three hours, observe and record the change caused by cooling.

Volume and Mass Use a funnel. Fill a balloon with sand. Fill another balloon with an equal volume of water. Tie each balloon closed. Use a balance to measure and compare the mass of each balloon.

Vocabulary Smart Cards

Your child will learn these vocabulary terms:

boil	mass
condensation	matter
conduction	melt
convection	property
density	radiation
evaporation	states of matter
freeze	volume

Help your child make these terms a part of his or her vocabulary by using them when you talk together about matter. You may wish to use your child's Vocabulary Smart Cards to play a memory game. Draw a box in the center of a sheet of paper and write a vocabulary term in the box. Ask your child to write or draw details about the vocabulary term in the space around the box.