

Water Lava Lamp Experiment



P
Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

This is a fun experiment to show your child how different liquids don't always mix. Using food coloring, water, vegetable oil and Alka-Seltzer tablets, they'll get to create their very own "lava lamp" while getting curious about science!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Language

Indicator:

Engaging in increasingly longer interactions

Skills:

Conversing with peers and adults



Materials

- Vegetable Oil
- Water
- Food coloring
- Original Alka-Seltzer tablets
- 2 drinking glasses



Instructions

Step 1: Add food coloring to 1/4 cup of water in one of the glasses.

Step 2: Break an Alka-Seltzer tablet into a couple of pieces and place off to one side.

Step 3: Fill the second drinking glass until it's 2/3 full with vegetable oil.

Step 4: Add the colored water to the glass, leaving extra room at the top in case it rises.

Step 5: Let your child drop in the Alka-Seltzer pieces one at a time.

Step 6: Sit back and watch!

Safety Tip: DO NOT let your child put the tablet in their mouths.



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Like all science experiments, have your child predict what will happen and why.

For younger toddlers: Have them pick the colors and help pour the mix together. Have the adult handle the tablet.



Playful Questions

- What will happen when you mix the water and oil?
- What is the food coloring doing to the water?
- Why do you think the liquids don't mix together?
- What will happen when we add the tablet?
- What color should we use?