



## Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 3-5 year olds

### Early Years Service, Children's Services

### Buckinghamshire Council

#### MAGIC MILK FUN

1. Pour milk into a container  
(Plastic one is best for young children.)
2. Drip food colouring slowly onto the milk using a small spoon.
3. Add as many colours as you like.
4. Next get a table spoon and dab the thin end into washing liquid.
5. Slowly dab the spoon in the centre of the milk.
6. Watch as the colours make new shapes and colours merge together.

**Talk together:**

**What might happen?**

**What can you see happening?**

**How did it change?**

**Talk together using new words:**

*Pour, drip, dab, shape, mix, float, speckled, lines, movement, circle, circular, fast, quickly, slow, marble effect, changes, first, then, next, after, long, short, dots*



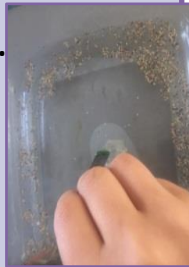
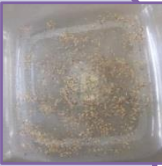
#### PEPPER DASH

1. Sprinkle pepper into a bowl of water.
2. Dab the narrow end of a spoon into washing up liquid.
3. Place the narrow end of the spoon in the peppered water.
4. Discuss what happens to the pepper? Talk about why the pepper moves.

**This activity is also a good way to show children why using soap to wash your hands is important as it dislodges the pepper/dirt /germs.**

**Talk together using new words:**

*Pour, sprinkle, tip, scatter, float, dip, soapy, move, circle, edges, more, less, fast, slow.*



## EXPLORING CHANGES

#### LAVA LAMP BUBBLES

1. Pour water into an empty plastic bottle
2. Add either food colouring or a black currant cordial (if you don't have food colouring).
3. Pour vegetable oil into the bottle until you can see a thick layer of oil resting on the top.
4. Add between 5 – 10 tablespoons of salt.
5. Watch the bubbles moving in the bottle

**Talk Together:**

**Which direction are the bubbles moving?**

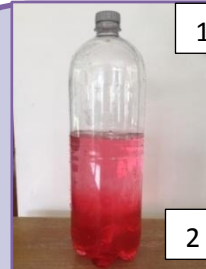
**What can you see?**

**Where is the oil?**

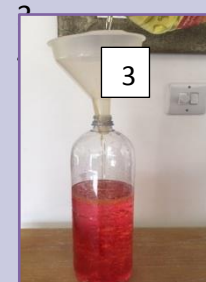
**Why do you think it's on top?**

**Talk together using new words:**

*Water, flow, colours, dark, light, see through, transparent, oil, float, bubbles, air, Mix, dissolve, swirls, down, up, top, bottom, fast, vigorous, burst, pop*



1



3



4



5

### Tips for exploring changes:

Only complete activities that are safe for your child, avoiding materials that cause allergies.

Give your child time to just watch what is happening.

Help your child to observe changes that occur by talking about the things you see and pointing out the things you notice.

Ask your child what they can see happening and encourage them to talk about the reasons why they think things happen.

Recount what you did by using words such as: first, then, after that, at the end.

Repeat the activities again encouraging your child to think through what to do and to predict what will happen next.

## Information for Parents/ Carers

### Find out More

[Five excellent science experiments - CBeebies - BBC](#)

[Hungry Little Minds – Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 – 5](#)  
[Small Talk - ideas for Parents](#)

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

### Understanding The World

#### You might notice your child can:

- Talk about why things happen and how things work, like “where does all the bathwater go when it goes down the plughole?”
- Notice changes in things, when bananas turn black when they stay in the bowl for too long or the flowers in the park getting bigger.

### Communication and Language

#### You might notice your child:

- When you ask me questions like “What do we need to cut the bread?” I know it’s a knife.
- When playing together will understand simple instructions and know what you mean and can do it them self.
- Can help you when you ask them to do something such as stir the mixture with a spoon.
- Is beginning to understand when you ask questions like “How can we mop up the juice?” and “Why do you want to wear your boots today?”
- Can tell you about something that happened yesterday, like “remember when .....”
- Can ask lots of questions and answer your questions too.
- Can talk about what we are doing now, and what might happen later or tomorrow.