

curious minds

Ages 1
and up



Magic Milk Experiment

This simple, easy to set up science experiment is sure to get some smiles.

Learning benefit / Skills developed

- Science foundation skills and understanding
- Recognition of cause and effect
- Observation skills
- Problem-solving ability

What you'll need

- Wide plate or bowl
- One cup Milk (full cream is best)
- Food colouring
- Dishwashing liquid (small amount)
- Cotton Swabs

Instructions

- Pour milk in the bottom of the bowl or pie plate. (just enough to cover the bottom and then some).
- Drop different colours of food colouring into the milk, spacing the food colouring drops so that the drops don't touch.
- Pour about a quarter cup of dishwashing liquid into a bowl.
- Dip the cotton swab into the dish liquid

- Touch the milk anywhere with the swab (only touch the milk with the swab, not the food colouring). You can keep touching the milk in all different spots.
- Watch the food colouring react.

Why does this happen?

The Dishwashing liquid is a degreaser. So the molecules are reacting to the fat cells in the milk. This causes motion which creates the swirls of the food colouring, making the different colours as they mix.

Tips

Engage children in questions, What did you notice? What happened when you put the cotton swab in the milk? Why do you think that happened?

