



## HELLO PARENTS,

Science, directly and indirectly, influences all aspects of everyday life. From the food we eat to the way we get around, science is everywhere. Young children are naturally inquisitive, full of questions about the world around them, and curious about how things work. Science helps children develop key life skills, including the ability to communicate, remain organized and focused, and form their own opinions based on observation. Science also helps children develop their senses and overall awareness. In this newsletter, you will find fun science activities that will encourage your children to investigate and question the world around them.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

#### WHIPPED CREAM EXPERIMENT

##### MATERIALS:

- Whipped cream
- Wide tray/plate
- Popsicle stick
- Food colouring
- Spoon

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Put some whipped cream on a wide plate or tray.
- Add a few drops of food colouring to the whipped cream and place the plate/tray in front of your child.
- Encourage your child to mix the food colouring and the whipped cream using a spoon, popsicle sticks or just their hands.
- Allow and motivate your child to explore the different colours and textures.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Mixing Colour Song".

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### RAMP DRIP PAINTING

##### MATERIALS:

- White paper
- Eye dropper
- Paint
- Wooden blocks
- Tray
- Cups
- Water

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child create a ramp using a tray. Elevate one side of the tray by placing wooden blocks underneath.
- Cover the ramp surface with white paper.
- Put the paint into cups. You can prepare several colours of paint cups for your child to choose from and work with.
- Encourage your child to use the eyedropper to drop paint onto the ramp, and watch how it moves from top to bottom.
- This activity helps teach your child about gravity, colour mixing and simple colour recognition.

[Click here](#) to read "Baby Loves Gravity" by Ruth Spiro.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### WATER DISPLACEMENT EXPERIMENT

##### MATERIALS:

- Clear plastic jar with wide opening
- Stones
- Tape
- Water
- Toy figurine

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child fill half of a plastic jar with water. Mark the level of the water on the jar so that you can monitor the progress.
- Tape a toy figurine to the top of the jar, and tell your child that they need to help the toy drink some water.
- Provide your child with stones and ask them to drop them into the jar.
- Encourage your child to notice and mark the rising water level every time they drop stones into the jar.
- Motivate your child to use stones of different sizes to bring the water in the jar to its rim.

[Click here](#) to listen to the story "The Thirsty Crow" by Harshita Makvana.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### COLOUR CHANGING FLOWERS EXPERIMENT

##### MATERIALS:

- White flowers
- Food colouring
- Paper
- Jars or cups
- Water
- Pen or pencil

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child trim the stems of the white flowers at an angle.
- Put several drops of each food colouring into different cups or jars and fill them halfway with water.
- Place the flowers into the jars or cups.
- During the experiment, ask your child questions:
  - What would happen if we cut the stems shorter?
  - What would happen if we change the flower type?
  - How long do you think it will take the flowers to start changing colour?
  - Does one colour come through faster than others do?
- Watch the flowers change colours and make note of the changes every day.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### IVORY SOAP EXPERIMENT

##### MATERIALS:

- Bar of Ivory soap (only Ivory soap will work)
- Microwave
- Paper
- Paper plate
- Plastic container
- Pen or pencil

##### DIRECTIONS:

- On a piece of paper write down what you think is going to happen to the Ivory soap when you put it in the microwave.
- Put the bar of Ivory soap on the paper plate inside of the microwave for one minute.
- Watch the soap as it begins to expand. You can open up the door of the microwave and see how the bar of soap is changing.
- Allow the soap to cool for a minute or so before touching it.
- Place the puffy soap into a plastic container. Touch and explore it.
- The science behind this experiment: the Ivory soap expands because it is full of little air pockets. If you hold a bar of Ivory soap and another brand of soap in your hands, you can feel how much lighter the Ivory soap is in comparison. The air pockets are the reason why a bar of Ivory soap is the only kind that will float.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Ask open-ended questions to encourage your child to think, wonder, and develop hypotheses.
- Help your child make a prediction, observe and draw conclusions.
- Observe and point to the science around you! For example, an ice cube melting is a change of state.