

Erupting Chalk

This activity creates a sense of wonder as your child experiments with icy chalk, creating drawings that fizz when vinegar is added.

How to Do It

Mix together baking soda, corn flour and water. Split the mixture into two separate bowls. Add a few drops of different-coloured food colouring or watercolour paint to each bowl. Pour each coloured mixture into separate ice cube trays and freeze.

Once frozen, pop out the ice cube colours into separate bowls. The ice can be used like chalk to draw on concreted space and will dry into a chalky texture. The different colours will look gorgeous as they melt and blend into each other.

Ask your child to separate out a couple of the ice cubes and, together, pour a little vinegar onto the ice to watch the bubbly reaction. Alternatively, pour a little vinegar onto your child's chalk art and watch the fizz.

What Learning is Occurring?

- Sensory - your child will feel the different texture of the chalk as it melts
- Basic science concepts: cause and effect, chemical reaction, melting and freezing
- Creativity and early literacy as your child makes marks with the chalk.

Age Considerations

- For younger children, consider the possibility of mark making with less clothes if this is an option, as this will provide more sensory experience and the clean-up may be a little easier.
- For children who might find the ice a little too cold on their fingers, put paddle pop sticks in the ice cube trays before freezing and children can make marks with the ice block sticks on a softer surface like paper or an old cardboard box that you might have on hand. Put something underneath to catch the drips or do this experience outside.

Things you will need

- ¼ cup baking soda
- ¼ cup cornflour
- ½ cup water
- Two bowls
- Food colouring or watercolour paint - enough to colour the mixture
- Ice cube tray
- Freezer
- Concreted area
- Vinegar
- Old clothing or waterproof apron for your child (this can get messy!)

Tips

- Adult supervision is required to ensure vinegar is kept away from little eyes and mouths
- Note – chalk drawings become more visible as they dry. Take some photos of the marks made and again as they begin to dry and once they are fully dry. Talk about them with your child and wonder alongside them as to why each are different.

