

Day Twenty-Eight: May 28, 2020

DIY LAVA LAMP



Looking for a fun activity that is equally impressive and inexpensive? This DIY lava lamp is sure to make you and your kids happy, plus it is an opportunity to teach them the science behind it!

Materials Needed:

- Vegetable oil
- Glass jar or water bottle
- Food colouring
- Alka-seltzer tablets

Instructions:

- 1) Fill the empty jar or water bottle about 2/3 full with vegetable oil.
- 2) Fill the rest of the bottle/jar with water, leaving a little space at the top. Notice that the water sinks below the vegetable oil? The oil floats on the surface because the water is heavier (has a higher density) than oil.
- 3) Add the food colouring.
- 4) The food coloring will only mix with the water, not the oil. Don't shake the mixture, this causes a lot of little bubbles to form in the oil, which makes the effect of the lava lamp less stellar. Instead use a chop stick (or something similar) to mix the food colouring well with the water.
- 5) Now for the magic... When you are ready for the fun, break an Alka-seltzer tablet into four pieces. Have your child drop in one piece at a time.
- 6) Have fun watching what happens! The best part is that your homemade lava lamp will work over and over again. You can even screw on the lid and break it out a few days later for fun. All you need is more Alka-seltzer.

How does this work?

When you drop in the alka seltzer, it sinks to the bottom and starts dissolving. As it dissolves, it forms a gas which rises to the top and takes a little of the colored water with it. The gas bubble breaks on the surface and the colored water sinks back to the bottom.

Photo and activity credit: No Guilt Mom

<https://www.noguiltmom.com/kids-activity-make-your-own-lava-lamp/>