



DISSOLVING JARS

Materials you need:

- Clear plastic containers or glass jars
- Cold and warm water and jugs for pouring
- Spoons
- A selection of materials for children to put into the water like edicol powder paint, flour, sand, dirt, sugar.

Setup for play:

- Set up materials on a table outside so you don't need to worry about spills!
- Put a sign on the discovery table that says, 'which things will dissolve in the water?' to add to the anticipation.
- Ensure enough containers for a few children to experiment at once then show them how to pour some water into their jar or container then add a spoonful of one of the materials into the water.
- Stir with the spoon and observe what happens. Talk together about the types of things that dissolve in water.
- Allow the children to experiment freely and work together or independently as they talk about and share their discoveries.
- What has dissolved? What didn't? What happened if you added a lot of one material? Did it still dissolve? Does warm or cold water make a difference?

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children experiment with materials that might dissolve they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and spatial awareness
- Use descriptive language to describe textures, materials and actions.
- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Negotiate roles, responsibilities and relationships while working in a group
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Use language and sound to communicate their thinking
- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Make decisions about the materials they want to use and what works best.
- Express themselves creatively while investigating and experimenting
- Problem solve and make decisions
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation

Extending the play:

- Add different materials like a crayon, candle, block, metal key, piece of chocolate, ice cube and stone to the jars or clear containers and place out in the sun in the morning on a hot day. Talk with the children about the warmth of the sun and what can happen when things are left in the sun. In the afternoon investigate the jars again to see what might have melted and what didn't. Do they look the same as they started or different? Are they now liquid or solid? Melted or hard?

