

STEM

starts now

DIY Rain Cloud

Recommended Age: 31–36 Months

STEM concepts: Science (water cycle)

Materials: A clear jar, food coloring, water, shaving cream, plastic pipettes

What to do: With your child's help, mix a few drops of blue food coloring into some water and put it to the side. Fill up the jar about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full with cool water. Make a fluffy cloud out of shaving cream on the top of the water in the clear jar. Give her a plastic pipette and show her how to pick up the colored water with it. Once there is water in the pipette, gently squirt it on to the top of the cloud. The colored water will slowly go through the cloud and drip into the water below.

Language and Communication: Talk about the clouds in the sky that day and explain that rain comes down from the clouds. As you do this experiment, explain the steps that you are doing out loud. Use words like first, second, third, etc. as you go about it. This will help introduce the idea of processes and directions to him, which will be helpful in the future. Encourage him to talk about what is happening and explain the experiment and the steps in his own words.

Expand the Activity: One simple way to expand this activity is to use different colors of food coloring as the rain. Next time it rains, look out the window as the rain falls down and explain how this is just like the experiment. Another thing you can do is take pictures to document the process and print them out. Have your child put them in order from first to last.

