

STEM

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Dancing Worms

Recommended Age: 31–36 Months

STEM concepts: Science (chemistry), Math (counting, measuring)

Materials: 2 clear cups, 3 gummy worms each cut into 4 slices, 3 tablespoons of baking soda, 1 cup of warm water, vinegar

What to do: Allow your child to become a chemist for the day with this easy experiment! Help her measure out 1 cup of warm water and pour it into a clear cup. With your guidance, have her measure out 3 tablespoons of baking soda and mix it into the water. Give her the slices of gummy worms and have her stir them into the mixture. Let the worms soak for 15 minutes in the baking soda and water.

While you and your child wait for the gummy worms to soak, fill another clear cup with vinegar. Once the 15 minutes are up, give him a fork to fish the worms out of the first cup and put them in the second cup. Lean in and watch what happens!

Language and Communication: When measuring out the ingredients, count out loud with your child. Ask leading questions to encourage her to think like a scientist. Questions such as “What do you think will happen?” will help her come up with a hypothesis. As the chemical reaction between the vinegar and the baking soda take place, ask her to describe what she is seeing. This will help her learn to make observations, which is a key part of science.

Expand the Activity: To expand this activity, you can experiment with adding more gummy worms to the mixture or doubling the recipe. Doubling the recipe is a great way to introduce addition to your child! Come up with a list of other foods or objects you would want to test out. Finally, have your son tell you a story about the gummy worms. He can then draw out what is happening to the worms.

