MILKY FIREWORKS

Make swirly twirly food coloring “fireworks” in milk.

LEARN TOGETHER

Asking questions, making guesses, and seeing what happens next is a great way to get children excited about learning while developing key skills like planning, collecting information, and making observations.

MATERIALS

• Cotton swabs
• Food coloring
• Dish soap
• Milk
• Saucer or shallow bowl
• Cup
• Small objects like rocks, popcorn kernels, or marbles

MAKE TOGETHER

Surface tension is a force or “layer of skin” on the surface of a liquid. Surface tension is what insects use to walk on water and how water droplets hold their shape.

Let’s use surface tension to do a fun tie dye experiment!

1. Pour milk into a saucer or shallow bowl and pour some dish soap into a cup.
2. Squirt 4-6 drops of different food coloring into the milk. Let the drops sit there. Watch how the food coloring sits on the surface layer of the milk.
3. Dip one end of your cotton swab into the dish soap.
4. Gently dip it into the milk and watch the colors dance! The soap breaks the surface tension causing a tie dye or marbling effect.

Take the science even further!

1. What happens if you cover small rocks, popcorn kernels, or marbles in soap and drop them in?
2. Try drawing or coloring what you see! Practice your photography skills and take some pictures. Be careful not to spill!

For more fun activities, please go to cmom.org/resources