

SEPTEMBER 2021



hello, fall.



At Better Beginnings, October means one thing - **SCIENCE!** And when it comes to **SCIENCE**, the **TRICKS ARE THE TREATS!**

Halloween will soon be upon us. And to help make it a memorable one, we have conjured up some **SPOOKTACULAR** resources that are sure to enchant your little ones.

Remember though - the only thing scary about these experiments is how much **FUN** you'll have doing them! Keep reading for these resources and more.

Happy Halloween to all you '**boos and ghoul**s' out there!

Dawn Jeffrey

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Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Assistant Director

SCIENCE RESOURCES



Rainstorm in a Jar

Ready, Rain! Can be boring for young children. Excite them with this easy, 2 ingredient experiment. Show them how to make it rain!

INGREDIENTS:
 1/2 cup white vinegar
 1/2 cup water
 1/2 cup oil
 1/2 cup cornstarch
 1/2 cup salt
 1/2 cup white vinegar
 1/2 cup water
 1/2 cup oil
 1/2 cup cornstarch
 1/2 cup salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prepare your colors. Add several drops of food coloring to about an ounce of water in a small container. Use one color at a time. There is no need to mix colors. It's easier to be with 3 than one when they come out of the jar.
2. Fill your glass jar or bottle to the top with tap water.
3. While agitated, big splash of food coloring on top of the water.
4. Drop the diluted food coloring into your jar and watch the colors dance!

Notes: Colors may take a minute or more to seep through your cloud. But when it starts, it's magical!

THE SCIENCE OF RAIN
 The general trend, warm air holds water that can condense into clouds. As the air cools, the water vapor condenses into tiny droplets. The clouds are formed when warm air rises with the particles that rise and then high up in the sky. The air up there is colder. Cold air holds less water so the liquid like clouds become heavy and get too heavy to stay up. This is how a rain storm starts.

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RAINSTORM IN A JAR

PLAYDOUGH POWER

Playdough is a great way for you and your children to play together. Measuring, mixing, modeling, shaping and rolling playdough is fun! Your child is learning about cause and effect. He's learning about solids and liquids and mixing colors. Making and playing with playdough helps your child learn math and science. It sparks his creativity. It feeds his natural curiosity.

Experiment
 Will playdough roll like a ball?
 Does it float?
 What happens if you add sand to your playdough?
 What happens if you add water?
 What colors mix to make purple?
 How long of a snake can we make?

BONUS! Use the recipe poster on the next page to talk math and teach new words.

This is science. Playdough is fun that makes your child smarter!

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PLAYDOUGH POWER

Sticks and Stones Creativity

Did you know that sticks and stones can be used for many things? Use sticks and stones to create a "Mud Pie Man" or a "Mud Pie Man" and have fun!

There is a world of natural resources hidden. Playing with these elements - leaves, twigs, sticks and stones, can help your child appreciate the beauty of nature. They become caretakers of it.

Use your sticks to make a "Mud Pie Man" or a "Mud Pie Man" and have fun!

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STICKS & STONES CREATIVITY

Not just anyone can bottle the weather. But with the magic of science, your little wizard can perform this trick in a few easy steps. Learn about the science of rain and have fun doing it with this [Rainstorm in a Jar](#) resource.

Who says 'Mad Scientists' are all bad? They're just mad about science! Your child will be too learning about solids and liquids, cause and effect with this [Playdough Power](#) resource. Mix a playful potion, mold a Frankenstein, then smooch and smash it! It's sure to be a monster mash that will "spark" his interest - no electricity needed.

The woods are a popular setting for many of our favorite ghost stories during Halloween. Bring those stories to life with this [Sticks and Stones Creativity](#) resource. When kids learn about nature, they become caretakers of it. Use the "Mud Pie Man" in this resource to help your child's imagination run wild!

PANDEMIC GUIDELINES



Just a quick reminder that you can always find the most updated [Pandemic Guidelines](#) from Arkansas DHS on our website.

Find the [Trending tab](#) and then click the [COVID Advice and Resources for Families](#) button.

Or, [click here](#) to download the PDF or screenshot the document and save to your phone for quick access!

As COVID-19 circumstances change daily, Arkansas DHS and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education will **monitor and adjust these guidelines as needed.**


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PANDEMIC GUIDELINES

Administrative Procedures

1. If the facility chooses to close for any reason related to the current pandemic, notification must be made in writing to the Child Care Licensing Unit stating dates of the closure.
2. The facility must notify the Child Care Licensing Unit in writing prior to reopening.
3. The facility shall notify the Arkansas Department of Health at 633-504-0155 each time an employee or child at their facility tests positive for COVID-19.

Group Size

1. Limit number of children in each group to the extent possible. Smaller groups mean fewer potential exposures.
2. Keeping children in the same assigned group each day reduces the likelihood of potential exposure. Minimize mixing between groups to limit potential spread.

General Health Requirements

1. To the extent possible, do not allow sick people into the facility including individuals who meet any of the following criteria:
 - a. A temperature of 100.4°F or above
 - b. Have had a temperature of 100.4°F or above in the last 48 hours
 - c. Signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell)
 - d. Has had a positive test for COVID-19 in the past 10 days or are awaiting the results of a test
 - e. Has been in close contact with someone who has a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 and the close contact has not yet completed the required quarantine after the close contact with the positive person, unless the individual meets the criteria of #2 below.
2. Individuals will not have to quarantine if they meet **both** of the following criteria:
 - a. Are fully vaccinated, with at least 2 weeks since their final dose,
 - b. Have remained asymptomatic since the exposure
3. Though wearing masks is no longer mandated by the State of Arkansas, CDC and ADH still strongly recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. For safety reasons, under **no** circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under the age of 2. Wearing face masks reduces the risk of potential spread from people who may be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. Two layers of 100% cotton is recommended if cloth masks are used. Cloth masks should be laundered daily. Neck gaiters and similar wraps that go around the neck and do not have two layers of material are not recommended. Mask with valves do not meet the

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ARKANSAS DHS PANDEMIC GUIDELINES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

HELPFUL TOOLS FOR CHOOSING CHILD CARE



Need help finding quality child care near home? Click the button below to access Better Beginnings's **FIND CHILD CARE TOOL**.



FIND CHILD CARE TOOL

WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

An illustration of a diverse group of ten smiling children of various ethnicities and ages, standing in a row.

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OR, check us out on **social media**.



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