

# FIG at Home

## LAVA LAMPS

Engage little learners with this groovy science experiment.

### MATERIALS

- Medium clear bottle with a screw on lid; mason jars or Voss water bottles work well
- Water
- Vegetable or canola oil
- Food coloring
- Alka-seltzer tablets
- Optional (but helpful): funnel

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill 1/3 of your bottle with water.
2. Drop in a few drops of your favorite food coloring into the bottle. Screw on the lid and gently shake to mix.
3. Fill the remainder of the bottle with oil, using a funnel for ease. Leave a small space at the top for air. Notice how the colored water and oil don't mix? This is because water is more dense (heavier) than oil, so the oil will sit on top of the water.
4. Break the Alka-seltzer tablet into 3 or 4 pieces.
5. Drop one of the pieces into the mixture and screw on the lid.
6. Voilà! Your very own lava lamp! The Alka-seltzer creates gas and as the gas rises up to the top of the bottle it takes a little piece of the colored water with it.
7. Add more tablet pieces to keep the lava flowing.
8. This mixture will last for weeks. Just make sure to keep the lid on tight (and out of reach of little hands!). To reactivate, simply add more tablets pieces.



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