

Episode 5: Colourful Raincloud Experiment



When clouds become full and heavy with water droplets they can't hold anymore, the water falls back to the ground as rain (i.e. gravity pulls them down as raindrops). Alex is making a splash in the lab creating a colourful raincloud with food dye and shaving cream!

Scientific concept: Clouds are made of droplets of water.
Science process skills: Observing, communicating and predicting.
Let's investigate: *What makes a cloud rain?*

Materials

- A large clear jar or vase
- Water
- Shaving cream
- Food colouring (red, blue, yellow and green)
- Plastic eye droppers

Experiment procedure

1. Fill a jar or vase with water.
2. Shake the shaving cream and spray the foamy 'cloud' shapes on top of the water.
3. Use an eye dropper to add droplets of blue food colouring on top of the shaving cream 'clouds'.
4. Watch as the 'rain' (i.e. blue coloured water) trickles down from the clouds.
5. Next, add different food colouring to create multicoloured, heavy rain. Saturate the shaving cream clouds with food colouring.
6. Watch the colourful rain fall from the clouds!



Early Education links

Episode themes relate to [EYLF Learning Outcomes](#) 4.2 and 5.2. As you create multicoloured rain together, encourage children to observe how primary colours can be mixed to form other colours. For example, ask children to predict what colour rain they can create by mixing yellow and blue.

Follow-up learning

- Watch the [Play School Through the Windows: Rain](#) film and discover what a storm is and why lightning always comes before thunder.
- Download the Play School [Rain, Hail or Shine: Early Education Notes](#) for teaching ideas to further explore weather and seasons with young children.

