

Episode 6: Sensational Sound Experiment



We can't see sound but sound waves travel through air, water and solid objects as vibrations. In an episode sprinkled with fun, Michelle creates a 'Seeing Sound Sprinkle Sensation' experiment to discover how sound waves travel.

Scientific concept:

All sounds come from vibrations.

Science process skills:

Observing, comparing and predicting.

Let's investigate:

How does sound travel?

Materials

- Bowl
- Cling wrap
- Coloured sprinkles
- Large cooking pot
- Wooden spoon

Experiment procedure

1. Stretch a piece of cling wrap over a bowl. Smooth down the edges.
2. Place coloured sprinkles over the surface of the cling wrap.
3. Next, make a humming sound near the bowl and watch as the sprinkles move! You've turned a bowl into a 'Seeing Sound, Sprinkle Sensation'!
4. Then try something louder. Bang on a pot with a wooden spoon near the bowl and watch the sprinkles move up and down. It's like you can see sound!
5. Next try moving away from the bowl, then bang the pot. The sprinkles don't move as much. When you stand further away from the bowl, the sound waves have further to travel – so it isn't as strong or loud. When you're closer to the bowl, the sound waves are stronger as they don't have to travel as far.



Early Education links

Episode themes relate to [EYLF Learning Outcomes](#) 4.1, 4.2 and 5.2. Model inquiry processes throughout the experiment and support children to contribute constructively to scientific discussions. Ask children to suggest other resources or instruments they could use to make sound waves near the 'bowl with sprinkles'.

Follow-up learning

Extend children's understandings about sound by listening to strange, surprising and silly sounds on the ABC Kids listen [Noisy by Nature](#) podcast series! The supporting [Curriculum planning handbook](#) provides practical follow up learning ideas after listening to the audio series in early education settings.

