

Episode 4: Balloon Bonanza Experiment



Michelle is blowing up balloons for her big balloon party, but she is running out of puff! Bursting with fun facts, this episode shows how gas can blow up balloons. When bi-carb soda and vinegar are mixed, they react and make a foamy gas. The experiment investigates how to make gas flow into a balloon and inflate it.

Scientific concept:	Matter can change into gas.
Science process skills:	Hypothesising, observing and predicting.
Let's investigate:	How can a balloon be inflated without blowing into it?

Materials

- Balloons
- Bi-carb soda
- Vinegar
- Large empty bottle
- Kitchen funnel

Experiment procedure

1. Position a funnel in the opening of a balloon, then pour in some bi-carb soda.
2. Use a measuring jug to pour some vinegar into a bottle.
3. Cover the bottle opening with the bi-carb soda filled balloon.
4. Hold the balloon upright and shake the bi-carb soda into the vinegar. The mixture should froth and bubble, making an invisible gas to inflate the balloon.
5. Repeat the process to blow up more balloons!



Early Education links

Episode themes relate to [EYLF Learning Outcomes](#) 4.2, 5.1 and 5.2. Encourage children to hypothesise and make predictions about what might happen throughout the experiment steps. Model scientific language such as 'procedure', 'react', 'gas' and 'mixture' to extend children's knowledge and understandings about fundamental science concepts.

Follow-up learning

- Host a balloon bonanza party. Invite children to help design/ draw the invitations and set up crockery and food for the celebration.
- Check out the [Play School Sea & Space Educator Notes](#) for suggestions for how to make a Balloon Astronaut. Encourage children to move their bodies in slow and floaty ways, like an astronaut in space.

