

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Colour concoctions

**Experimenting with colours combines creativity with science. In this activity, children will create and name their own colours.**

### Learning aims

- Predicting, critical thinking, problem solving
- Creativity, invention
- Collaboration
- Vocabulary development.

### Resources

- Three clear containers e.g. jars, glasses
- Ice cube trays, or similar
- Pipettes, basters, or similar
- Food colouring gel – red, blue, yellow
- Water
- Paint colour charts (available free from DIY stores).



### Activity outline

- Share paint colour charts with the children, talking about the colours and what names they are given
- Add some water into each clear container with a few drops of food colouring to make red, blue and yellow water
- Demonstrate using the pipette to collect and move red water from the container to the ice cube tray
- Ask children to predict what will happen if yellow water is added to the red water in the tray. Add the yellow and talk about what happened
- Repeat with the other colours
- Encourage children to work together to mix and re-mix the colours. For example, find out what happens when they take orange and green water and combine them in a new section of the tray
- Inspire them to invent names for their new colours such as 'happy day', 'stormy night' or 'muddy puddle'.

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## Extension ideas

- Print out photos of the ice cube trays filled with different colours and support the children to write their invented colour names, creating their own colour charts.
- Encourage the children to record their colour mixing experiments so they can remember which colours they mixed to get the end result.

## Extending the activity

- Training: [Expressive arts and design](#)