

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.

Activity: Glorious gloop

Giving children the time and space to play with and explore a variety of materials, textures, sights, and sounds will help them to make sense of the world around them. This activity is great for exploring unusual textures.

Learning aims

- To begin to understand the difference between a liquid and a solid
- To hear, and maybe use, describing words
- Use all the senses to explore the mixture.

Resources

- Cornflour
- Water
- Tray/ tuff spot
- A variety of washable resources such as spoons, cars, animals
- Food colouring (optional).



Activity outline

1. Gradually mix cornflour with water (add the food colouring to the water if desired) until it is firm to the touch. It should be rigid to touch when in the tray but you should be able to pick it up and have it run through your fingers like a liquid
2. Invite the children to come and explore the 'gloop' in whichever way they see fit. Some may like to use their hands to get stuck in, others may prefer to use utensils
3. Add in other items such as cars or animals so that children can see how the gloop interacts with other resources
4. Encourage the children to push, poke and pick up the gloop to see what happens
5. Share words with the children to help them describe the mixture such as sticky, runny, gloopy, cold, hard, slippery etc.
6. Get involved! Spend time investigating with the children and they will be encouraged to join in too.

Extension ideas

Provide the children with cornflour and water. Encourage them to create their own mixture and explore what happens if too little or too much water is added to the mixture.



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NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Sensory skills](#) – Online course
- [Little scientists leading the way](#) – Online course