

Science Starters at Home
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Oobleck

Everything exists as a solid, liquid or a gas. Solids have a definite shape; liquids and gases take the shape of the container they are in. Explore states of matter.
Try this at home! Mix up some oobleck. Explore it. Is it a solid or is it a liquid or both?

Ingredients

1.5 cup of cornstarch
1-cup water
Container: plastic bowl/ cake pan
Newspaper (for easy clean-up)
Food coloring (optional)

1. Put the cornstarch in the container.
2. Slowly add the water, mixing with your hands.
3. Add food coloring for added fun.
4. Explore the mixture. What can you do to make it flow like a liquid? Behave like a solid? When "pushed" together, the mixture will appear dry and solid; as children let go of the mixture; it flows like a smooth liquid.

Mixture can be stored several days in the refrigerator or several days.

What's going on?

Oobleck mixture can be both a solid and a liquid. Oobleck acts like a solid when enough pressure is applied and acts like a liquid when little or no pressure is applied.

Want More?

Internet Links:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index_flash.shtml

Check out this book:

Kitchen Science by Chris Maynard; DK Publishing, 2001.

Gobs of Goo by Vicki Cobb, Lippincott, 1983.

Literature Connection:

[Bartholomew and the Oobleck: \(Caldecott Honor Book\) \(Classic Seuss\)](#) by [Theodor Geisel - Dr. Seuss](#)
(Oct 12, 1949)

Internet Sources Used for this Science Starter:

<http://www.science-house.org/CO2/activities/polymer/oobleck.html>

<http://www.wellesley.edu/childstudy/pages/oobleck.html>