

Topics: Color Mixing,
Properties of Materials,
Observing and Describing,
Vocabulary

Materials List

- ✓ Sugar
- ✓ Cornstarch
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Food coloring or liquid water colors: red, blue, and yellow
- ✓ Sauce pan
- ✓ Stove top or hot plate
- ✓ Reclosable plastic bags
- ✓ Spoons
- ✓ Bowls
- ✓ Chart paper
- ✓ Duct tape, optional

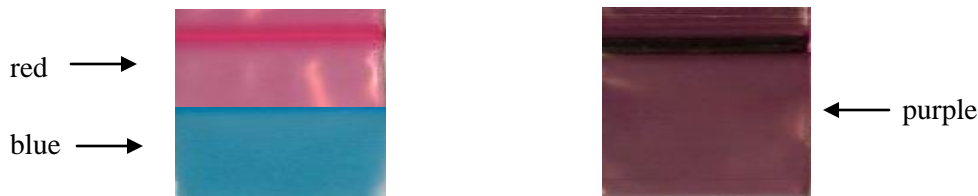
This activity can be used to teach:

Next Generation Science Standards:

- Light and vision (Grade 1, Physical Science 4-3)
- Properties of materials (Grade 2, Physical Science 1-1)
- Science & Engineering Practices (Grades K-2)
- Non-direct vocabulary building

Color Mix “Pudding”

Color Mixing is in the Bag



Children will create secondary colors by mixing primary colored (safe-to-eat) “pudding” in a reclosable bag.

Assembly

Make the “pudding” using the recipe below.

1. In a sauce pan, mix together 120 g (1 cup) cornstarch, 65 g (1/3 cup) sugar, 950 ml (4 cups) of cold water.
2. Heat over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture bubbles & thickens.
3. Set aside to cool.
4. Divide the pudding into three bowls and mix a different color into each bowl.

To Do and Notice

1. It is fun to use a children’s book to introduce the concept of color mixing. *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh is an excellent choice.
2. After reading the book, discuss the color combinations.
3. Each child will choose 2 colors and place about 3 spoonfuls of each color in a plastic bag. Some young children will need help with this step.
4. Seal the bag and tape it closed.
5. As the child kneads the “pudding” in the bag, ask what color the two colors in the bag will make.
6. Mix only until the third color appears. Is it what the child expected?
7. The child can continue to knead the bag until all the pudding is the same color, if s/he desires.
8. It’s fun to hang the flattened bags on the window.
9. After completing the activity, help the children create a record of what they observed using words and/or pictures.

The Content Behind the Activity

Young children are naturally curious. They take great interest in watching things in their environment change and when they can be the initiator of change they become totally engaged. This simple “experiment” gives them the opportunity to observe using their senses and to describe what happens. With repetition, they will begin to make generalizations based on their observations and to make predictions based on their generalizations. This “practice” of observing, describing, wondering, predicting, and experimenting are integral components of “doing science” that young learners can carry with them into elementary school.

Taking it Further

- Mix all three colors together.
- Continue to explore how colors mix with other art media e.g., paint, finger paint, layered cellophane or tissue.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=643 for more resources!)