

TAKE MATTER INTO YOUR OWN HANDS!




WHAT'S THE MATTER IN MR. WHISKERS' ROOM? Everyone's a scientist in Mr. Whiskers' class, where hands-on mini-experiments lead to Big Ideas — and promote an ongoing passion for independent, open-ended discovery. What's the Big Idea? Kids figure it out for themselves by taking matter into their own hands in a series of fun

explorations that make science discoveries as simple as child's play. But you don't need to sneak into Mr. Whiskers' class for hands-on science fun — you can make your own discoveries with the activities below.



ICE AND WATER

This is fun to play outside on the sidewalk, on blacktop, or on a patio.

 Make blocks of ice by freezing water in large plastic containers or gallon milk cartons. Try to melt the ice blocks with spray bottles — you can use old window-washer spray bottles or buy new ones at the store. To learn about vapor, use watercolor brushes or old paintbrushes to paint with water.

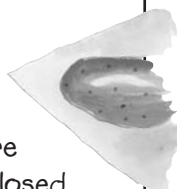


GLOOP

It's best to play with gloop on a sheet of plastic or on an old tablecloth. When you are done, put it away in a closed container or it will dry and get hard. Do not eat gloop!

1. In a large bowl, add 1 cup of water to 2 cups of white glue.
2. Fill 3 cups each with $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of warm water.
3. Stir a teaspoon of borax into each cup of warm water.
4. Mix one of the cups of borax water into the glue mixture, and then add the others, one at a time. The mix will get very gloopy, but keep stirring until all the water is mixed in.
5. Store in a plastic container with a lid.

Provide small toys, marbles, string, cups, and cookie cutters for use with the gloop.



ROCKS

Collect rocks from your neighborhood. Study the rocks with the following:

balance scale
magnifying lenses
unglazed tiles
tubs of water
paintbrushes

Find out which rocks can scratch the other rocks, which rocks are the heaviest, and whether water changes the colors of the rocks. What else can you learn about the rocks?

