



DIY Bouncy Balls

How Can I Use This In My Lesson Plan?

Making DIY Bouncy Balls is the perfect way to encourage scientific explorations and introduce simple concepts like the scientific method. For example, before children begin creating their bouncy balls you can ask them what ingredient they think makes the balls bounce. Does the glue make it bounce? Does the water make it bounce? Posing these questions can inspire scientific inquiry and help children develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. After they make their bouncy balls you can ask the same questions again or expand your discussion by asking children what they might change in future experiments. Will they add more glue? What will happen if they add less glue, will the balls lose their bounce?

This fun interdisciplinary activity can also be extended to focus on early math concepts! Encourage children to predict how far their ball will bounce and measure the distance once it's come to a stop. You can record your findings as a class and discuss if their predictions were correct. If students are at home and meeting virtually, this experiment can be conducted individually and children can share their results at their next class meeting, giving the children a way to connect even though they might be apart.

Required Materials:

- 1 Cup of Very Warm Water
- 1 Tablespoon of Borax
- Clear or Glitter Glue (Item #60481)
- Bowl (Item #33856)
- Spoon
- Clean Surface (Item #88729)

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1. Gather Your Materials

To make your DIY Bouncy Balls you will need very warm water, Borax, and glue. Grownups, make sure to supervise children as they measure out their Borax, or have the ingredients pre-measured and ready for use ahead of time.

2. Combine Your Ingredients

Pour 1 cup of very warm water into a bowl. Add 1 tablespoon of Borax and mix until it is mostly dissolved. Pour approximately 1 tablespoon of clear or glitter glue into your solution. Hand mix the ingredients together until the glue starts to harden and is no longer sticky. Shape the mixture into a ball shape using your hand.

3. Time to Play!

Roll the mixture on a clean, smooth surface to create your bouncy ball's shape. Give it a few minutes to dry and give your bouncy balls a try. Watch how high they bounce and let the fun begin!

