

SKITTLES EXPERIMENT

Tips & Prompts for Teachers & Parents

Observation & Engagement

- Encourage students to watch quietly for the first signs of colour movement.
- Ask: *"What do you notice happening at the edge of the Skittles first?"*
- Prompt: *"Do the colours move straight or in curves? Why do you think that is?"*
- Invite students to **draw, label, or write** what they see.

Hypothesis & Prediction

- Before adding water, ask: *"What do you think will happen when the water touches the Skittles?"*
- Encourage reasoning: *"Why do you think it will do that?"*
- Suggest using **sentence starters** like: *"I predict that ... because ..."*

Scientific Method Connections

- Discuss: *"Is this melting or dissolving? How can we tell?"*
- Prompt: *"How can we test our ideas and see if our predictions are correct?"*
- Encourage students to **compare predictions with results** and explain differences.

Inquiry & Critical Thinking

- Ask open-ended questions:
 - *"What would happen if we used cold/hot water instead of warm water?"*
 - *"What if we change the Skittle pattern?"*
 - *"Do you notice some colours move faster than others? Why?"*
- Challenge students to **think of their own experiments** or variations.

Vocabulary & Concept Reinforcement

- Introduce key terms: *dissolving, diffusion, soluble, prediction, observation.*
- Prompt students to **use the words in their explanations**: *"Tell me what happened using the word dissolving."*

Classroom & Home Management Tips

- Use **small groups or pairs** to make observation easier.
- Remind students **not to stir the water** - the rainbow effect works best with still water.
- Encourage **clean-up as part of the activity** and reinforce responsibility.