



See the Sound

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Date:

Objective:

Sound vibrations travel through air, water, and even solid objects, but it's not possible to see the waves. What if we could see the waves in another way? This science of sound experiment makes sound more visible by forcing objects to react to the sound vibrations.

Vocabulary Words:

Materials:

- Empty clear mixing bowl
- Plastic wrap
- Large rubber band
- Sugar crystals- Sugar in the Raw works great, or make sugar crystals in another science experiment!

Background Information:

Activity Instructions:

1. Wrap a sheet of plastic wrap over the mixing bowl so that it's taut, and secure with the large rubber band. Be sure that the plastic wrap is tight and does not sag.
2. Place a few of the sugar crystals on the top of the plastic wrap, placing them in the middle of the wrap.
3. Instruct your child to get close to the sugar crystal and say something loudly! What happens to the crystals? Do they move?
4. Experiment with louder and softer words or sentences to watch the sugar crystals react to the sound vibrations!

Conclusion/wrap up:

While your child might think it's his or her breath making the crystals jump and move, but it's actually the sound vibrations. Try different sounds besides ordinary speech and see how the crystals come to life!

Further Investigations:

Sources:

- From KidsAcademy: <https://www.kidsacademy.mobi/storytime/sound-science-experiments>

Also look at: <https://team-cartwright.com/sound-science-activities>