

Shaving Cream Slime Grades JK-5

This slime recipe is one of the best out there. It makes really puffy, fluffy slime that can be stored for up to 3 months in an air tight container. What better way to allow your students to learn about polymers and play with slime!

**Materials**

* White school glue (doesn’t matter what brand)
* Saline solution (contact lens solution, must contain boric acid and sodium borate)
* Baking soda
* Foam shaving cream
* Food colouring
* Mixing bowl
* Measuring cups
* Spatula
* Ziploc bags or other container to store finished product
* Tablecloths/covers/drop sheets (depending on how messy the group is)

**Background Info:**

The main science principle behind slime is the formation of polymers. A polymer is a substance made up of many small pieces (called monomers) stuck together in chains. A good way to describe this is to think of a bin of Lego pieces that are loose and not connected. When an activator (you) is added, the Lego pieces are connected together to make one large molecule (the polymer). The new larger molecule will have different characteristics than the monomers all by themselves. In this case, the sticky glue is turned into a fun gooey slime!

In science, mono means one, so monomers are pieces on their own. Poly means many, so many pieces stuck together. Polymers are extremely common in our everyday lives, from plastics to DNA and other proteins found in the body. They can be naturally found or made by humans!

**Action**

1. Have the students start with a small cup filled with about ½ cup of white school glue.
2. Add in the same amount of shaving cream (equal parts glue and shaving cream). Keep in mind the shaving cream expands after it has been released from the canister, so using less is better.
3. Stir the shaving cream and glue together very well.
4. Add 1-2 drops of food colouring. Mix.
5. Add ¼ tsp of baking soda. Mix.
6. Add 1 Tbsp of saline solution. You should immediately be able to see the consistency of the mixture start changing. Mix well.
7. Keep adding saline solution until the slime comes together and stays together. Kneed the mixture well.
8. The more you work the slime the better it will get and eventually it will no longer stick to your hands but instead will be an ooey gooey fluffy puffy slime!

**Conclusion/Wrap up**

It is important to know that the saline solution is meant for soaking contact lens and eventually being put into the eye. This means that the solution is safe to use with children. However, the active ingredient is sodium borate, one of the active ingredients found in borax. There have been some concerns over the use of borax with children, as its repeated use and long exposure can have harmful effects on their development. Have the students wash their hands thoroughly after playing with the slime and remind them that it is not for eating!