



Dancing Salt

Sing, tap, watch, and draw as sound vibrations make grains of salt move in visible ways.

Helps Your Child Grow



Scientific Inquiry

Making salt grains move with voices and tapping lets your child observe, compare, and record how different sounds affect a visible result.



Attending and Understanding

Following cues to change volume, then observing and describing what happens, gives your child practice understanding spoken directions within an experiment.



What You'll Need

1. A cup with plastic wrap stretched tightly across its opening and a small amount of salt



Sing to the Salt

Bring out the homemade “stage” and sing a short song toward the cup. Point out any salt that moves. When your child becomes curious, invite them to make a sound and watch what happens.

Observations

- Responds to what you say and helps keep the experiment going
- Makes a sound and tries to make the salt grains “dance”

Tips

- If the salt does not move, invite your child to move closer and try a longer or louder sound.
- Keep your mouth near the “stage” so the vibration reaches the plastic wrap more clearly.
- Point to the salt while your child makes a sound. Compare how it looks when still and when moving.



Compare Loud and Soft Sounds

Explore how the salt moves with different volumes. Invite your child to make a loud sound, then a soft one. Compare how high or how much the grains move each time.

Observations

- Sings toward the cup and watches to see whether the grains of salt jump
- Tries different volumes or sounds until the salt begins to move

Tips

- Ask, "Did the salt jump higher before, or is it higher now?" Connect what your child sees with the sound they made.
- If the difference is hard to see, try a longer sound such as "Aaaah," or sing a little louder.
- Look closely together: Do all the grains begin moving at once? Do they jump to the same height?
- Before the next sound, ask, "Do you think the salt will jump higher this time?" Let your child predict and then check.



Draw What You See

After testing each new sound, give your child the recording sheet and invite them to draw how the salt moved. Then ask what other sounds might make the grains move and test those ideas together.

Observations

- Draws what the jumping grains of salt look like
- Uses different symbols to record how the salt moves in response to different sounds

Tips

- Offer paper and drawing tools so your child can use lines or simple marks to record how the salt moved with different sounds.
- Invite your child to describe the salt's movement while drawing it.
- Try other sounds, such as clapping, stomping, or tapping the table, and watch whether the salt moves.
- Tap the table gently, then compare that result with a loud and a soft voice. What looks different?