

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 3: Concentration

You can make your own play putty right at home. Here's what you will need.

Materials

- 20 mL White household glue (Colored glue won't work.)
- 15 mL Borax
- Water
- 1 Measuring cup
- 1 Plastic bag
- 1 Set of measuring spoons
- 1 Spoon
- Food coloring
- 2 Plastic cups or small jars (Baby-food jars work great.)

Directions

1. Mix 15 mL (1 tablespoon) of borax in a cup or jar with enough water to dissolve it (about 40–50 mL). This will make a very concentrated solution.
2. In a separate plastic cup, mix 20 mL (4 teaspoons) of white glue with 5 mL (1 teaspoon) of water and a few drops of food coloring.
3. Add 5 mL of the concentrated borax solution to the cup of glue.
4. Mix the mixture for a few minutes, and watch what happens.
5. Now test your play putty for stretching, bouncing, newsprint transfers, and so on. How long will it stretch? How high will it bounce? Record your observations and bring them to class.
6. Store the putty in a plastic zip bag.