



Note: This activity is done over two days

Level: Preschool

Cost: Under \$5.00

Mess factor: Lots!

Suggested room in the house: Outside, kitchen sink, or bath tub



Normally adults fill balloons with a lot of hot air, but this time children will be filling them with water. Although your children might think they are making water balloons, they'll quickly realize this science experiment is cooler than that!

Your child will experience:

- Cause and effect
- Temperature
- Sizes
- Color
- Experimenting, predicting, and drawing conclusions



Materials:

- Water
- Various sized balloons
- Food coloring
- Freezer



Beginning:

Say to children “We are going to be scientists today and start an experiment that we will finish tomorrow. Help me fill up these balloons with water.” Add food coloring to the balloons. Let children pick which colors to add to what balloons. Fill the balloons with different amounts of water.

Middle:

Make space in your freezer and let children place them inside. Ask children a few questions to get them thinking about what might happen. Here are a couple ideas of what you could say:

“What do you think the balloons will look like when we get them out of the freezer tomorrow?” (Some will be whole and some will split if the water level is high and has filled the balloon to capacity because the water will expand and break the balloon.)

“What shapes do you think we’ll find?”

“Do you think the water will still be colored, or will the cold make it go away?”

For extra practice with reading and writing, have children write down their answers and hang them on the refrigerator until the next day.



continued on next page

**End:**

Wait until the next day so that the water has time to freeze.

Help children lift the balloons out of the freezer.



Set the balloons in the kitchen sink, bath tub, outside on the ground or in a large bowl or bucket.

Refer back to the questions from the first day and try to answer them again.

Let children play with the frozen blobs.

Cleanup:

If you do this activity outside, the blobs will melt away for easy cleaning. Inside, make sure they are in a sink or bathtub, because the food coloring might stain.

**Younger children:**

- Younger children may not be able to answer scientific questions, but will really enjoy playing with the frozen blobs.
- Be sure to make some blobs small enough so children can handle them while playing.
- This can be great fun for little ones in highchairs!

Older children:

- Experiment and see how big the blobs can be made.
- Give children a watch and help them time how long it takes for a blob to melt.
- Have children group the blobs by size and then color.

**Hints:**

- Put the balloons in the sink or tub with water for fun water play. As always, stay beside children when they are near water.
- This is a great activity to do outside in hot weather!

More!

- You can add small objects to be frozen into the blob as long as they can fit through the neck of the balloon.
- The more food coloring you add, the darker the blob.

**Special Needs Accommodations:**

- This is an out-of-the-ordinary way to stimulate small muscle use and language development.