

Milk swirls



What to do...

Add some food colouring to some milk.

What happens?

Now dip a cotton bud or your finger into some washing up liquid, then into the milk (don't stir!).

What happens now?

How it works...

The washing up liquid reacts with the milk (in several ways!) These reactions:

- Make it easier for the food colouring to move through the milk
- Form molecules (small particles) that push the food colouring around

So you see swirling colours!

Things to talk about...

(describe things to younger children, and discuss them with those that are old enough)

What do they think will happen each time they touch the milk?

What is changing the way the colours behave on the milk?

Do the colours move quickly or slowly?

What shapes can you see in the patterns?

How long do the colours keep moving after you touch the milk?

What do they think would happen if they used a bigger bowl? (Try it!)