

September Experiment: Dancing Raisins!

To support children's scientific learning outside of school, each month I'll be sharing a fun, hands-on experiment that families can try at home.

For September, we're making raisins dance! This simple, fizzy experiment is perfect for observing science in action - and it's as fun to watch as it is to explain.

This experiment is quick to set up, and the results are sure to get everyone curious!

What You Need:

A handful of raisins

A jar or clear glass of water

A jar or clear glass of a freshly opened fizzy drink (like 7UP or soda water)



What To Do:

First, drop a handful of raisins into a jar of still water. What happens? (They will just sink.)

Now, drop another handful of raisins into a glass of freshly opened fizzy drink.

Watch carefully! After a moment, the raisins will begin to rise and fall, as if they are dancing!

Keep observing — how long do they keep moving?

What's Going On?

This experiment shows how gas bubbles can change buoyancy.

At first, the raisins are heavier than the liquid, so they sink. But in the fizzy drink, tiny carbon dioxide bubbles attach to the surface of the raisins. The bubbles make them lighter, so they float up!

When they reach the top, the bubbles pop — and the raisins sink again. Then it starts all over! The raisins keep dancing as long as the drink stays fizzy.

Try Taking It Further:

Weigh the raisins before and after the experiment. Do they get heavier? Why might that be?

Try different fizzy drinks - which one makes the raisins dance longest?

What happens with other small items like pasta, lentils, or rice?

Try cutting the raisins into smaller pieces. Does it change their movement?

Safety Note: Take care with liquids near electrical items. This experiment is best done on a tray or mat.

If you try this experiment or want to share your dancing raisins video, I'd love to see it!

Email me at: newzealand@lainesmeadprimary.co.uk

Happy experimenting!

Mrs Smith