



Engineering For Kids Home Activity 1:

“Oil and Water don’t mix”

Have you heard the term “oil and water don’t mix”? Well, it’s true! Here is a fun way to teach kids about different densities in liquids!

You’ll need: Oil, Water, Blue Food Coloring (To contrast the oil), a large bottle with a lid.

Instructions: Clean and empty out your large bottle. Then fill it about 1/3 of the way up with water. Add a few drops of the blue food coloring. Replace the lid and shake to disperse the food coloring throughout the water. The food coloring makes the water look bright blue and you’ll be able to see more of a distinction between the oil and water. Pour oil slowly into the water, and you’ll notice that it returns to the surface of the water. Try slowly shaking up the mixture and watch it separate again!

What is the science here? Oil molecules are only attracted to other oil molecules. Water molecules are attracted to water molecules. They don’t mix together. The oil floats on top of the surface because the oil is less dense than water.

Think about other liquids at home, what else might have a different density than oil and water? Try experimenting with different liquids to see if you can find something MORE dense than water – that will sink to the bottom.

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