

SpeakEasy Sandbox #42: Ooh, Slime!

Make Slime: Mix 4 oz liquid glue (like Elmer's), 1/2 tsp baking soda and 1/4 tsp saline solution (the one you use for contact lenses). Add a few drops of food coloring of your child's choice, and stir.

Preverbal

Activity: Offer *two* color choices, naming the colors while holding them out ("Do you want yellow or blue?"). Watch your child's gaze or gestures (they might be very subtle) to see which choice they make. Use your child's color choice to color your slime. You can separate out some slime to make more than one color.

You can also practice making slime facial expressions (e.g. "EWW!" or WOW!")

First words

Activity: As you make your slime, repeat important words as many times as possible ("**stir, stir, stir**" as you mix the ingredients).

Make your finished slime into shapes or creatures, such as a snake or a snowman. Start a phrase, and see if your child will help you fill in the last word to complete the phrase, helping them along as they need it ("**I made a snake!** **You made a...s..nowman!**").

Word combiner

Activity: Expand your ingredients list as you add them to your slime. "**Glue.**" "**Glue AND baking soda.**" "**Glue AND baking soda AND liquid.**" "**Glue AND baking soda AND liquid aaaaand....STIR!**" The sillier and more exaggerated you make it, the more likely your child is to listen, get the pattern, and participate by trying to say some words with you.

Full sentences

Activity: Help your child create a story about where their slime came from (Mars? Deep in the ocean?). Work on maintaining a topic by relating all of your play to that place. If they choose Mars, then the glue can be sticky Martian footprints, the saline solution can be Mars water etc. Make rocket ships and Martians with your completed slime and act out your child's story together.

Ask the OT

Underresponsive to touch? Try: Light/quick rubbing, cold temperature, toys with varied textures, vibrating toys, tactile play with slime, playdough, seeds, beans, water

Overresponsive to touch? Try:Hugs; weighted lap pads, warmth, rhythmic patting on child's back, bean bag chair, heavy clothing, weighted vest or backpack

*The SpeakEasy Sandbox is a newsletter that provides the necessary tools to boost your child's speech and language development at home. **PLUS, we now have a web-app!** Sign up at*

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