Making Slime

Witness a chemical change.

What you need:

Gaviscon liquid antacid (This can be found at any grocery store)
Calcium enriched orange juice
Measuring cup
Popsicle® stick
Cup or beaker
Pasta strainer

What to do

1. Measure out 1/2 cup of the antacid and 1/2 cup of the orange juice.
2. Mix the two liquids in the cup or beaker.
3. Stir with the Popsicle® stick.
4. Pour the mixture into the pasta strainer to separate out the slime.
5. Observe (look at and feel) the slime.

What to ask

- What does it feel like?
- Where do you think the slime came from?
- What characteristics of the slime are similar to its ingredients?
- Is it possible to 'undo' the change?

Did you know?

A chemical change takes place when two things are mixed together and something brand new is created. The new thing is unlike the original two ingredients. In a physical change, nothing new is created, the ingredients only look different. Unlike a physical change, in which the original ingredients just look different, a chemical change cannot be undone. An example of a chemical change would be burning paper. When you burn the paper, the fire and the paper mix to create a new material, ash, that was not there before and you cannot get the paper back to the way it was before. An example of a physical change would be ripping the paper. Although you changed what the paper looked like, it is still paper. Nothing new was created.

What's next?

- What happens if you add more antacid or orange juice?
- What happens if you try a different type of orange juice or antacid?
- What happens if you mix in food coloring?

Children's Museum of Houston

The matter FACTORY

Created by the Children's Museum of Houston for The Matter Factory exhibit.
Sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.