

Fizzy Snow | Process Art and Science

<http://www.sciencekiddo.com/fizzy-snow/>

Too wet to go out,
And too cold to play ball,
So we sat in the house,
We did nothing at all.

The Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss

If the weather has you trapped inside, have no fear, have no fear! I know some new tricks, a lot of good tricks, I will show them to you. Your mother will not mind at all if I do.

These tricks involve creating incredible process art using a classic chemical reaction. Grab some Insta-Snow Powder, some baking soda, and some vinegar and get ready for an afternoon of fun even The Cat in the Hat would be envious of.

First Make Fake Snow

The first step is to whip up a batch of wet squishy fake snow. To do this either mix up Insta-Snow Powder according to the manufacturer's directions or grab a clean diaper and follow the instructions I outlined in my post about making [Fake Snow](#). Both of these products are made of sodium polyacrylate and you get the same fluffy, white, squishy, beautiful snow-like gel from both of them.

Be sure to contain the fake snow in some kind of a plastic bin or baking sheet for easy clean up!

Play in the fake snow for awhile. It is such a unique sensory experience to squish it between clenched fingers and roll it between outstretched palms . Grab some kitchen tools and let the kids dig, cut, mold, and shape it.

Once everyone is done playing with the fake snow transform it into fizzy snow.

Fizzy Snow

Materials

Baking Soda

Liquid Watercolors

Glitter (optional)

Vinegar

Pipettes - These are cheap (\$3 for 100 of them!) and so useful for experiments like [how many drops of water fit on a coin](#) and the [color changing fizzy reaction](#). They are great for fine motor practice, too!

Directions

- Add a few tablespoons of baking soda to your fake snow and stir. It will gradually "melt".
- Pour a few drops of liquid watercolors into the snow. Add glitter, if desired.
- Use a pipette to squirt vinegar onto the spots of color. Watch what happens!
- Repeat over the entire surface of the snow. Watch how the colors fizz, bubble, and mix. At the end you will have a beautiful canvas full of fizzy colors!

For easy clean up, dump your fizzy snow in the trash, **NOT down the sink! I know from experience that fake snow is excellent at clogging drains.*

Fizzy Snow: The Science

Making fizzy snow is an exciting twist on a classic chemical reaction between vinegar and baking soda. The bubbles you see are carbon dioxide gas that is produced when vinegar and baking soda mix together.

The fake snow "melts" when you add baking soda because the water molecules would rather bond to baking soda than to sodium polyacrylate. This means the snow-like gel dissolves. The more baking soda you add, the slushier your fake snow will be!

When you complete this activity I would love to see your pictures of your beautiful works of art! Join us on the [Science Kiddo Community Facebook page](#) to share!