

ACTIVITY SHEET by Katelyn McKelley

Sound Waves Experiment

Art Form: Visual Arts • **Other:** Science

DESCRIPTION:

This is an extremely easy experiment that explores the science of sound waves and how they travel.

RECOMMENDED AGE(S):

Kindergarten through 5th grade

TIME TO COMPLETE:

This project only takes about 5 minutes to set up and test. Exploring different sound waves based on using different utensils and lengths of string can take however long your child is still making discoveries.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ▶ A ruler (wooden or heavy plastic work best)
- ▶ At least two different sized metal spoons (may also try metal forks for comparison)
- ▶ About 4 feet of string or yarn

WHAT YOU DO:

- Create a loop in the middle of the yarn/string and insert the handle of the spoon
- Pull tightly so that the spoon hangs in the center of the yarn/string and you have two long pieces of about equal length on each side
- Take each string and wrap once or twice around your pointer finger on each hand
- Push the string against the opening of each ear (do not insert into the ear; just press to the opening as if you were to plug your ears)
- Allow spoon to hang just below your waistline once both ends of the yarn/string are placed in position near your ears for this first test (Note: you do not have to use the end of each piece of yarn/string; holding it anywhere along the length of each side is fine. Try adjusting how high or low the spoon hangs to see if it changes the sound.)
- With yarn/string pushed against ear opening, ask someone to gently tap the ruler against the round part of the spoon.
- Variations to explore: try using different sized forks rather than spoons; you can also experiment with different types of yarn and string



Video Tutorial



HOW YOU CAN SHARE:

Take a picture of take a picture of your child's sound wave explorations and share them, be sure to tag **#artworksanywhere**. Please also share with us descriptions of what they discover through their scientific investigations!

Activity Sheets made possible through generous donors:

Van Wezel Foundation ▶ Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation ▶ Evalyn Sadlier Jones Foundation