

## **Make Rain In A Jar**

Age 4 and older

Here's what you need:

quart mayonnaise jar and metal lid

boiling water

empty can

ice cubes

flashlight

1. Talk with children about how the sky looks before and during rain. Note that the sun is usually hidden by thick, dark clouds. Ask if they would like to make a cloud and rain in a jar.
2. Pour about half a cup of boiling water into the mayonnaise jar and cover it with the lid. Allow children to feel the warmth of the jar.
3. Put ice cubes into the can and allow children to feel its coldness. Place the can on top of the jar lid and encourage children to observe what happens. The warm, moist air in the jar will begin to look steamy, forming a cloud in the jar.
4. Shine a flashlight through the jar. Like the sunlight on a cloud, the flashlight makes the steam look whiter. Gradually, as the water droplets in the steam become larger (thus blocking more of the light), the steam will begin to look gray.
5. Point out the water droplets forming on the lid inside the jar. Some drops may roll down the side of the jar or simply drop like rain.
6. Explain that the inside of the jar is like the outdoors. That is, when the warm, moist air of the cloud meets cool air, the water inside the cloud forms droplets and falls as rain. Explain that this process is called condensation.