

THE RAINBOW

Mittu and Sunny were playing in the garden, when it began to rain.

"Oh! No! Mittu, we have to run inside," said Sunny.

"The sun is still shining. The rain will soon stop, Sunny. Let's go on playing," said Mittu, looking up at the sky. Then he suddenly exclaimed, "Sunny, look! There's a coloured arch in the sky! Isn't it beautiful?" Sunny saw the arch and shouted, "That is a rainbow!"

"What is a rainbow?" asked Mittu curiously.

"When it rains, there are small drops of water in the air. When the sun and rain appear at the same time, light from the sun's rays enters these water droplets, and comes out of them again. When light comes out from water into air, it bends slightly, and gives out all the colours" explained Sunny.

"So, a rainbow is seen when sunlight shines on the water droplets in the air?" said Mittu.

"Yes. And there are seven colours in a rainbow. Can you see the colours, Mittu?" asked Sunny.

"Yes. Violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. Red is on the outside of the arch" replied Mittu.

"Together, the colours are called 'VIBGYOR'. The colours of the rainbow were discovered by a scientist named Sir Isaac Newton. The rain has stopped! Come Mittu, let's play" called Sunny.



"But the rainbow is also gone" said Mittu with an unhappy face.

Just then, Sunny brought out his bubble gun and blew bubbles. Mittu could see the colours of the rainbow on all the bubbles. "I told you Mittu that they can be seen on any water droplets in the air when the sun is shining," Sunny explained.



"Yes," said Mittu happily running inside to get his bubble gun too.

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MAKE YOUR OWN RAINBOW

Do you want to make a rainbow which will appear on your wall within the reach of your hands? It's very easy. Try it out!

Take a small mirror, and a flat container, and some water.

Pour the water so that it fills the container. Now, place this in the bright sunlight. Slowly dip the mirror in the water. It should be placed in such a way that the mirror will stand slanted with the support of the wall of the container. Look at the picture on the right to see how it's done. Now you can see the sunlight reflecting from the mirror which is in the water.

Adjust the slant of the mirror carefully until the reflection falls on your wall, at a convenient height.

Leave the mirror and the container without shaking them up for a while, and watch the beautiful colours of the rainbow appear on your wall.

WHAT CHILDREN LEARN

- A rainbow looks like a coloured arch in the air.
- A rainbow is seen when sunlight passes through water drops in the air.
- There are seven colours in the rainbow.
- They are violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red.

