

# Early ON

@ Home

## Walking Rainbow

### Supplies

- 6 cups (preferably clear)
- Water
- Food colouring (red, yellow, blue)
- 6 pieces of paper towel

### Directions

- Make a circle with the 6 cups.
- Fill every other cup  $\frac{1}{2}$  full of warm water and add a colour to each cup in the order of red, yellow, and blue. The cups in between should be empty.
- Fold a piece of paper towel into thirds. Place one end in the red cup in the other end in the empty cup. Fold another piece of paper towel and place one end in the empty cup and the other end into the yellow. Repeat with each colour.
- Watch.

\*Start this activity in the morning and watch it throughout the day. When you're done dry the paper towel to save for other crafts. Put white flowers in the coloured water and watch what happens!

### The Science

Capillary action (the ability of a liquid to flow upward, against gravity, in narrow spaces). This is the same thing that helps water climb from the plants roots to their leaves. This activity allows the water to travel up the paper towel (capillary action) into the next cup.



### Questions to Ask Before

- What do you think will happen?
- Why do you think the order of the colours matter?

### Questions to Ask After

- What would happen if we put it in a different order? Or configuration?
- Could the same thing happen with other materials?