

### Episode: “Afraid of the Dark”

Jay needs to fix something in the elevator and has to turn the power off to fix it safely. This means the elevator will be dark for a bit and Albie doesn't like the dark! She meets artists at Klip Collective who use darkness and light to create their art. Albie is inspired to put on her very own light show and realizes she'll need the dark to do it. Once she faces her fear of the dark, she realizes just how magical darkness, shadows and light can be.

### Activity

#### Materials:

- Flashlight
- Darkened room
- Small toys or objects (if available, try colorful and transparent objects like magnetic tiles)
- Plastic bag
- Colored markers (permanent if available)
- Paper
- Optional: Rubbing alcohol

#### Steps:

1. Watch the episode “Afraid of the Dark,” and look for inspiration for creating your own light show. What do the artists at Klip Collective use to create art with light? What tricks does Albie use for her own light show?
2. Gather your materials and bring them to a dark space or room. Shine a flashlight on your hands and on small toys and explore how shadows are cast. What happens when you move the light closer or further away?
3. A shadow is cast when light can't pass through an object. What happens if an object is see-through, or transparent? If you have access to magnetic tiles, a colorful glass, or other transparent toys or objects, try shining a light through them and watch the colors come through.
4. Make your own colorful transparency using just a clear plastic bag and some



# Albie's Elevator

markers. Draw big areas of color on the bag and shine a flashlight through the bag to see the design projected on the wall. Move your flashlight away from the bag to make the picture bigger!

- Note that permanent markers work best for this. Washable markers work too but take longer to dry on the bag.
- If there are logos or writing printed on the bag, you can remove them using a bit of rubbing alcohol!

## Tips

- Lots of kids, like Albie, get nervous in the dark. But this might not be true for your child! Darkness can also make us feel calm, quiet or even like something silly and special is happening.
- The goal of this activity is to explore lots of materials in new and interesting ways. Open-ended experimentation like this is perfect for letting your child take the lead.

## In this activity, your child:

- Experimented with light and shadow
- Used everyday objects or toys in a new and creative way

## Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

- How did Albie feel while doing her light show? How does this dark space make you feel?
- Albie felt scared in this episode and needed to find her bravery to put on her show. How does your body feel when you're scared? What do you do to find your own bravery?

## Vocabulary

**Shadow:** An image cast when something blocks the light

**Silhouette:** The shape or outline of something

**Transparent:** Clear or see-through

**Opaque:** Something that you cannot see through





## **Keep Going!**

### **Shadow Puppet Theater**

Hang a sheet in a doorway, and shine a light from a distance. Your child can perform a shadow show for an audience on the other side of the sheet. Toys, hands or cut paper on sticks make for great shadow puppets.

### **Outdoor Shadow Tracing**

Head outside on a sunny day and trace nature shadows on the ground with sidewalk chalk. You can even trace the outline of your child's shadow. The shadows may be temporary, but tracing allows you to capture their shape or silhouette.

### **Sun Catchers**

Stick colorful tissue paper onto clear contact paper and hang in the window for a simple suncatcher.



## Related Resources

### More At-Home Activities

Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by *Albie's Elevator*.

### Children's Books with Related Themes

Check out these children's books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

**Flashlight** by Lizi Boyd

A child explores nature in the dark with his trusty flashlight in this wordless book.

**The Dark** by Lemony Snicket

A little boy meets the dark and learns that he doesn't have to be so scared of it after all.

**Blackout** by John Rocco

A boy and his family are surprised to have the best night ever when the power goes out.