



Looking at light

Hello, I'm Nicky Thomas.

In my spare time I volunteer with the Institute of Physics doing outreach activities like this.

Did you know there were different types of light coming from different light sources? Try this experiment to learn more

You will need

- A CD or DVD
- Light sources (e.g. lamp, room light, torch, window)

Turn on the light source and stand close to it. Don't look directly at the light source!

Hold the CD or DVD flat, so the reflective (shiny) side is upwards.

Keep watching the shiny side of the CD or DVD as you start to tilt it towards the light source.

The different colours used to create the light from the light source will appear on the shiny surface of the DVD or CD.

For example, an energy efficient bulb includes purple, blue green, red light but sunlight includes all colours so you can see a full spectrum.