

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

HOME LEARNING – Science (hand washing)



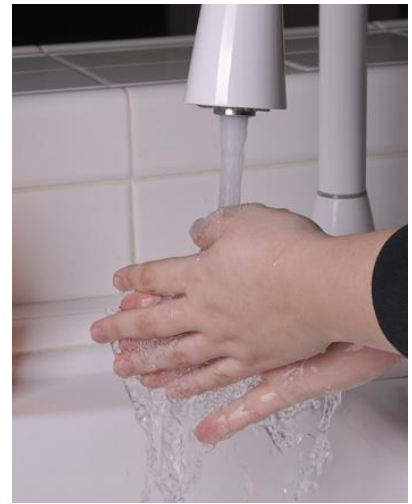
GERM SCIENCE: WHY HAND WASHING MATTERS

What You Need:

- Two slices of bread
- Zippered sandwich bag for each slice of bread (white works best but you can use others)
- Tongs
- Permanent marker
- A little water (spray bottle is great)

What You Do:

1. Set it up. This works best if you and your child set up the experiment after a trip to the playground (however try “after playing outside”) (or other similarly dirt-laden fun) and before he or she washes hands. However, it should still work with this type of exploring.
2. Ask your child to “wipe” off his or her hands to get rid of visible dirt. (Most children believe this is clean enough!)
3. Help your child use the permanent marker to label two sandwich bags: “Washed” and “Unwashed.”
4. Using the tongs let the child take a slice of bread out of the wrapper/bag and then rub his or her hands thoroughly on both sides of the bread. He or she should put this slice into the bag labelled “Unwashed.” allow your child to give one gentle mist of water into each bag and then close.
5. Ask your child to wash their hand (remembering to lather for 20 seconds). Then remove another slice of bread from the wrapped/bag and place in the sandwich bag marked “Washed.” Mist with water and seal.
6. Check the bags every few days. Which one grows the most mould first? Discuss what has occurred



What's Going On? Mould will grow on both slices, but much sooner and more abundantly on the “Unwashed” slice. Help your child understand that the germs that he or she did not see on the “wiped-off” hands became food for the mould. We certainly wouldn't want to eat those germs, would we? Best to wash them off before we handle food!