

# Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

HOME LEARNING – Science experiment



## MAKE GERMS SCATTER SCIENCE

Back in term 1 purple group did this experiment and it helped children understand the importance of handwashing. Why not try at home!

What you need:

- \*Washing up liquid (any brand)
- \*Pepper
- \*Water
- \*Bowl



What to do:

1. Pour water into a bowl



**2. Sprinkel pepper**

**Note: Don't add too much or the demonstration will not work as well.**



**3. Dip your finger into the soap and then touch the pepper (the reaction is pretty quick so a countdown can help)**

**Note: you can simply drop a little dishsoap into the bowl**



**4. Watch what happens**



When we did this with the children I told them, we were going to learn about how soap makes germs scatter, and I asked them to sprinkle some pepper into our bowl. That the pepper was the germs. They observed how the pepper floated on the surface of our water, and I told them that was like germs on the surface of our skin. When the “germs” scatter to the edge of the bowl. It’s quick but powerful and kids remember that moment. Afterward, we talked about how the “germs” will only be killed by the soap if we wash our hands properly. You can do the experiment and not use soap, use a drop of water to show children that water alone will not get rid of “germs”.

Inquisitive little scientists might want to know exactly why this happens since the pepper isn’t really “germs.” Basically, the demonstration has more to do with the soap and water. The pepper just allows us to actually see what is happening. When soap is added to the water, it lowers the surface tension of the water causing the water molecules on the surface to “scatter” or pull away from the point where you added the soap.