



The Dirt on Germs

Quick Description

Kids get their hands dirty and search for germs that are hiding in the dirt.



Required Materials

- ★ Set of small plastic sand play critters
- ★ Clear plastic container filled with potting soil or garden dirt
- ★ Sifters and scoops

Preparation

Decide what type of object you would like to use for the critters. You can be creative and make small germs (e.g., make small balls with play dough, let them dry and add eyes).

Directions

- ★ Hide the critters in the dirt.
- ★ Potting soil is recommended as it differs from sand in texture, appearance and smell.
- ★ Optional: Add water to the soil and encourage children to make Mud Pies.
- ★ Children will look for the critters in the soil.

Variations

- ★ This activity can also be held outside (e.g., sandbox).
- ★ It is a great opportunity to link this activity with handwashing demonstration.

Facilitating Comments

- ★ There are a lot of germs hiding in the dirt. They like to hide in dark and wet places.
- ★ Now that our hands are dirty, let's go wash them.
- ★ Germs are so small they are invisible.

Major Learning Concepts

- ★ Areas where germs can hide
- ★ Importance of handwashing after playing in the dirt

