

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Henry the Hand

Henry the Hand is an online hand hygiene resource dedicated to educating children about the importance of proper hand hygiene through several outlets, such as videos, songs, activities and coloring books, to name a few. Go to www.henrythehand.com and browse the abundant options. While many of the resources are available for purchase, there is a great link to “Health Tips Videos” that has a number of fun videos on hand washing that you could use with your class. There is also a link to a “Henry the Hand” video under the “Listen to songs & Watch Videos” section of the Web site.

To view a detailed classroom curriculum, go to www.henrythehand.com, click on the “School Program” tab and select “Classroom Curriculum Guide” towards the bottom of the page.

Alternative Activity # 1

Description:

Write “Look at all my germs!” at the top of a large piece of paper and “Can you see my germs now?” written across the top of the other piece of paper. Review the hand hygiene poster (provided on the following page of the toolkit) with students. Then have the students dip a hand in brown paint and put their hand print on the “Look at all my germs!” paper. After all students have made their hand prints, show the children your hand with brown paint on it, and demonstrate how long it takes to wash off the paint. Then have the children take turns washing their hands. While they are washing their hands explain how the paint is like germs that they have on their hands, and educate the children on how it should take them just as long to wash their hands as it does to wash the paint off their hands. Then have them go up to the other paper and push their hands against the paper. If any brown paint is still shown on the “Can you see my germs now?” page, have them spend more time washing their hands until their hand print is “invisible.”

Supplies needed:

Brown paint

2 large poster boards or sheets of butcher paper

Sharpies to title the papers

Alternative Activity # 2

Description:

Have a bowl of baking flour ready and select a few students to come and cover their hands in flour. Then have them go around and shake hands with the other students. Then ask the students to raise their hands if they have flour on their hands. Take this time to discuss how germs can spread if we don’t wash our hands regularly just like the flour spread from hand to hand. Then have the children wash their hands and explain how washing off the flour is like washing off germs.

Supplies needed:
Baking flour