

Water Absorption

Topic: I Can Build – Water Play

Time: 20 min

Age group: 4 - 7

What you need

- Eyedroppers or pipettes
- Containers with water
- Paper towels
- Pieces of wax paper
- Other surfaces to test: piece of paper, cardboard, plastic tray, piece of cloth, sponge, metal pan, cotton balls
- “What Absorbs Water?/What Doesn’t?” chart for recording results and predictions

What to do

Set up

- Have samples of different surfaces ready
- Fill your container with tap water (3/4 of the way to the top)
- You can add food colouring to the water so that droplets are easier to visualise

Activity

- Pass out eyedroppers, containers of water, as well as a piece of wax paper and a paper towel.
- Have children make drops of water on the wax paper and the paper towel. What happens? After they’ve observed how the drops remained on the surface of the wax paper but were absorbed by the paper towel, introduce the word *absorb*.
- Record children’s observations on a chart, “What Absorbs Water?/What Doesn’t?”
- Then have children experiment with the different surfaces or materials you’ve provided—cloth, metal pan, cardboard, sponge etc. Before they begin testing, ask them to make predictions about whether the surface or material will absorb the water or not.

The science

- Water behaves differently on different surfaces.
- Some surfaces absorb water; some don’t.

Science talk

Description words

Absorb, soak up, repel, textures, materials, and surface.

Science process words

Observe, notice, compare, same, different, change, test, and predict.



Open ended questions

- *Why do you think some surfaces absorb the drops and others don't?*
- *What do you think is similar about the surfaces that absorb the water?*

Skills

Observing, predicting, recording, learning about the concepts of water absorption

Stay Safe

- Keep an eye for water spills and have cleaning supplies at hand

Ways to document

- Chart "What Absorbs Water?/What Doesn't?"

Extending the activity

You can extend this activity by incorporating other materials, for example: cotton fabric, sponges, wood block for testing and have the children feel their texture and come up with predictions on whether or not that particular material will absorb water or not.

Other science links

Surfaces and materials.

Cross curricular links

- Literacy (increasing vocabulary)