

Glittering Germs

Often, it is not enough to simply explain to students that germs are everywhere. Because germs are so tiny and can't be seen, children will quickly dismiss that they exist at all. To reinforce just how prevalent germs really are, try out one of the exercises below with your students. Beware though - this will also enforce in your own mind the existence of germs in your classroom.

Materials:

- Glitter
- Glue
- Pencil

Procedure:

1. Cover a pencil with glue, then sprinkle glitter all over the glue.
2. Pass the pencil around the room (yes, it is messy!) and watch the glittering "germs" spread from one student to the next.
3. Wipe the pencil off with a paper towel and notice that some of the "germs" still remain. Explain that this is why it is important to actually WASH the pencil (and everyone's hands) with soap and water to effectively remove the germs. You can expect at least one of your students to touch something else once they have glitter on their hands. Glitter on a desk, on their face, or in their hair is an even better example of how easy it is to spread germs.