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How wet can you get????

Scientific processes: observation, prediction, experimentation, communication

Vocabulary: absorb, observe, predict, water, cup, examine, measure

Materials: baby diaper/s, water, measuring cup, chart paper

Engage: talk about absorb and other process vocabulary
Use a paper towel and place one corner in a cup of water and watch the water "climb" up the paper. Discuss what happened—that's ABSORB

Explore: show baby diaper: discuss their experiences with diapers

Question: How much water can a baby diaper hold???

Infer through investigation with the senses:

Ask each student what they think.

Let each student feel texture and thickness of dry diaper.

Show them the measuring cup.

Record data from students (prediction)

Put baby diaper on tray to catch excess water.

Slowly pour measuring cups full of water into middle of diaper

Record data on chart paper.

It could hold about 4 cups of water!

Let students feel bottom of diaper to see how heavy it is getting. If you have a balance, you can compare the full diaper with a dry diaper.

Explain:

Review concepts of observation, prediction, measuring, absorption

Infer what could hold that much water. Try those materials.

Elaborate: What other objects can absorb water? You could set up investigation stations with this.

EXTENSION TABLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF WEEK:

- Use different sized diapers and compare absorption
- Use different objects and check for absorption and the amount of absorption
- Use Internet to look at the damages of water and flooding-supersaturation of water
- Eventually cut open the diaper and examine insides, Have hand lenses ready for instruction.

EVALUATION:

Set up an anecdotal rubric appropriate for your students.