



SUPER FAB LAB INVESTIGATION:
Sunblock Investigation



Episode: Sid's Special Dad Day

Cycle: Weather

Purpose (What We're Going Explore and Learn)

- Why do I have to put on all that icky sunblock? In this investigation we explore the way sunblock works to protect us.
- We set up a simple experiment to find out how sunscreen counteracts the effects of the sun.

Materials (The Stuff We Need)

- Dark-colored construction paper
- Sunblock with sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher
- A sunny day

Procedure (What to Do)

1. Fold the paper in half. You'll leave one side alone and put sunblock on the other side.
2. Children can use their fingers to spread sunscreen on one side of the paper. If they'd like to make designs, that's fine.
3. Now leave the paper in a sunny spot outside for a few hours. (Don't forget to wash the sunscreen off your hands.)
4. After a few hours, observe the paper. What happened to the side without sunscreen? Is it still dark-colored? How is the side with sunscreen different from the side without sunscreen?

Other Stuff You Might Want to Know or Do

- Ask children to think about some other ways that people can protect themselves from sunburn. Broad-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, sunglasses, or even just sitting in the shade are some ideas they might come up with.
- If kids are dressed for summer weather, have them observe each other for places that they need sunscreen. Faces, arms, and legs are obvious spots, but there are other places that are easy to miss. Necks, tops of ears, tops of feet, and parts in our hair need protection, too. If children identify these areas using their own powers of observation, they might be a little happier about protecting them with sunscreen.