

Grade Level

PreK – 2nd Grade

Duration

45min

Activity Type

Dramatic Play

Medical Lab

Goal:

To introduce students to the job of a scientist and the various skills used when working in a medical lab.

Objectives:

1. To explore the various tools used in a medical lab.
2. To develop curiosity towards STEM.

Standards:

PK.AL.1: Actively engages in play as a means of exploration and learning.

K.SL.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse peers and adults in small and large groups and during play.

Materials:

- Lidded jars
- Cotton swabs
- Writing utensils
- Water & food dye
- Latex-free or cloth gloves
- Goggles
- Clipboards
- Plastic test tubes
- Petri dishes
- Magnifying glass
- Plastic pipettes
- Sticker labels
- Lab coats
- Animal plush toys

Procedure:

Classroom Preparation

Set-up the play area in your classroom with appropriate materials to mimic a scientific lab. If you want to give your students the option to dress-up, consider purchasing costume lab coats, latex-free or cloth gloves, and goggles.

In the materials list, we have given some recommendations for materials that can bring your classroom scientific lab to life. Be sure to have everything set-up before the students come to play in your classroom's dramatic play area.

Introduction

Tell your students that today they will pretend to be scientists working in a laboratory. Scientists who work in medical labs do all sorts of important jobs – they run tests to see if a person or an animal is sick, they examine samples closely, and some even create new types of medicine! Introduce them to the various items

in the classroom's medical lab and demonstrate how to safely play/use the tools you have provided. See below for examples of play your students can engage in.

Medical Lab

There are endless possibilities for different types of play. Your students can:

- Fill cups or plastic test tubes with water and food dye to represent different chemicals or fluid samples. Young students can have fun mixing the colors together. For older students, red can represent a blood sample and yellow can represent a urine sample. Allow students to label the various jars or tubes with a sticker label and pencil/marker.
- Pipettes can be used by young students to practice their fine motor skills. Older students can use the pipettes to make precise measurements in a "medicine" they are mixing together.
- A magnifying glass can be used to look at different "specimens". If you have a class pet that sheds, provide students an opportunity to closely examine their fur, feather, or scales!
- Students can practice collecting "bacteria samples" by using a cotton swab on an item (such as an animal plush toy) and pretending to rub it into a petri dish.