

Puddle Math

Experiment

Young children need opportunities to explore and compare shapes. This activity is an engaging way to get outside, play in puddles and to build their understanding of size. Concepts of big, bigger, small and smaller can be discussed while providing an opportunity for your young scientist to problem solve.

Instructions

1. Find a puddle or create one if it is dry outside.
2. Using your chalk, draw a line on the outside of the puddle.
3. Leave the puddle for an hour or two and then come back. Draw a new line around the outside of the puddle.
4. Did your puddle get bigger or smaller? Why do you think its shape changed?
5. If time permits, leave your puddle longer and return, drawing a third outline.

Materials:

- Puddle
- Chalk

Discussion

After completing the experiment, reflect on students' observations, reasoning and predictions with the following questions.

1. What did you observe about your puddle over time? Did it get bigger, smaller or stay the same? How could you tell?
2. Why do you think the puddle's size or shape changed? What might have caused it to grow or shrink?
3. If we left the puddle even longer, what do you think would happen? What do you think might happen if it rained or got very sunny?

Learning Extensions – Scavenger Hunt

Utilizing nearby nature, engage students in a **water scavenger hunt**. Capture their thoughts and reflections through a short journaling exercise.

Instructions

1. Download the scavenger hunt sheet [here](#).
2. Go outside and take an intentional walk in your neighbourhood to look for the following signs of water. How many can you find? Did you find your own discovery?

Materials:

- student journal
- water scavenger hunt

Discussion

Provide students time to reflect on the following questions in their journal.

1. What water discovery surprised you? Why was it surprising?
2. Why is water important to you?