



OH NO, STAINS!

Goals of the lesson:

Youth will:

- Learn to identify common clothing stains
- Learn ways to avoid stains
- Learn ways to remove stains

What You Need to Know:

- A stain is a dirty or discolored spot.
- Treat stains right away, if you can.
- Some stains are hard to remove and some can never be removed.
- Different kinds of stains are removed in different ways.
- Clean clothes help people to look nice and feel good.
- When using messy things, people can try to keep from getting their clothes dirty by wearing aprons and paint shirts, and by using napkins.

Materials Needed

- White, kitchen size plastic garbage bag (one for every two children)
- Scissors
- Paper
- Pen or marker
- Paper bag
- Old fabric scraps or clothing – machine washable (5 inch squares)
- Dish tub or pails
- Water
- Items for making stains – crayon, catsup, fruit, soft drinks, ink, etc
- Stain removal products

Learning Activity

1. Prepare the following materials before the meeting:
 - a. To make aprons, slit a garbage bag up the sides and at the bottom to make two sections (each section will make one apron). Cut a strip off one side for a belt and cut a hole in the center about 3 inches down from one end for the neck opening.
 - b. Write the name of each stain on a slip of paper and put the slips in a paper bag.



2. Have children put on the aprons. Tell them that they will need to protect their clothing from stains during this activity by wearing an apron and by rolling up their sleeves.
3. Have each child draw a slip of paper from the bag. Tell them that this is the stain they will make. Explain that different kinds of stains can be removed in different ways and that you will be telling them the best ways. Also tell them that you will be trying to remove the stains right away because that is when it is easiest to remove stains from clothing.
4. Have children make the stains on the fabric squares provided.
5. Show children how to remove stains and then let each child remove his/her stain using the recommended products and methods as indicated. You may want to let them experiment with different methods as well.
6. After everyone is finished, let each child show his/her stain. Ask for suggestions on ways to avoid getting stains on clothes. You may also want to talk about wearing clean clothes and looking nice.

Other Fun Things to Do

Mystery Stain Game. Hold up fabric scraps with some different stains. Hold these up one at a time and let children guess or take turns naming the stain.

This is the Way we Wash our Clothes. Sung to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush – ‘This is the way we wash our clothes, wash our clothes, wash our clothes. This is the way we wash our clothes, so early in the morning’. Use hand motions – scrubbing, drying, hanging)

Read a Book. Read about children and keeping clothes clean. Talk about why it is important to keep clothes clean.

Theodore by Edward Ormondroyd. Theodore, the bear, comes out clean when he is accidentally put in the laundry.

Soo Ling Finds a Way by June Behrens. Soo Ling’s grandfather must close his hand laundry business because of new Laundromat business.

Clean as a Whistle by Aileen Fisher. Three children get dirty and are shown how even animals stay clean.



Mrs. Mopple's Washing Line by Anita Hewett. When the wind blows Mrs. Mopple's washing off the line, it ends up on the farm animals.

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