

Day 2: Germs Are Invisible

Goal: To help children understand that germs are invisible, and although hands and toys may look clean, they can still carry germs.

Supplies:

Song—*Invisible Things*

Book—*Germs Are Not for Sharing*

Activity—*Invisible Things Worksheets*
(Need *Invisible Things* work sheets and black light under adult control.)

A. Music—*Invisible Things*

1. Pre-listening discussion:

- What does the word *invisible* mean?
- Do you remember what a germ is?
- Can you see germs?

2. Play *Invisible Things* Song.

B. Activity—*Invisible Things*

The black light reveals a cartoon germ on a hand that looks clean. Remember, the black light is not a toy and must always be under adult control. Never shine it into eyes.

Coloring over the image before looking at it under the black light does not hurt the visibility of the cartoon germ under the black light. (See next page for details.)



C. Storytime—*Germs Are Not for Sharing*

Discuss:

- Germs get on your hands in the bathroom—so you must always wash your hands carefully before leaving the bathroom.
- Always wash your hands before eating.
- When you wash your hands, you help keep your friends from getting sick.

D. Sing—*Invisible Things*

E. Review with children what they learned from this lesson

- Invisible things exist even if we cannot see them.
- Germs hide in the cracks of our hands, between fingers, and on your wrists.
- Washing and drying hands thoroughly can help get rid of germs.

Remember the Everyday Songs!

- *Because I Care Lullaby* to start nap time.
- *Clean Up the Room* to signal clean up time.

Activity 2: Invisible Things

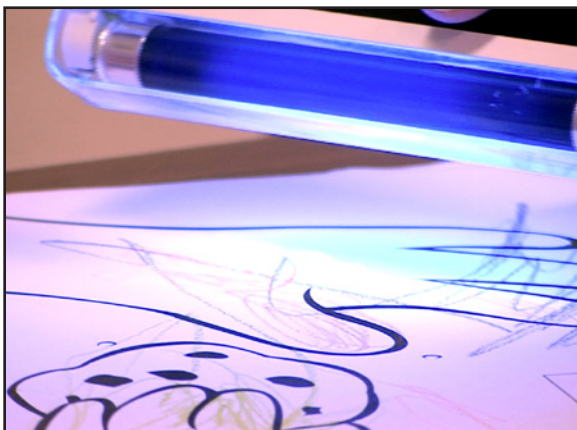
1. Discuss the meaning of the word “invisible.” Ask children to name examples of invisible things. (They may or may not name “germ,” the invisible thing described in the song.)
2. Show students the activity sheet of the hand reaching for a cookie. Ask them to tell you what the little boy is doing in the picture.
3. Tell them that the little boy did not wash his hands when he left the bathroom!
4. Ask: “What is the boy about to grab?”
5. Say: “His hands **look** clean, but do you think they really **are** clean?”
6. Explain that you have a special light that can discover if his hands are hiding germs.
7. You may want to talk about how scientific tools (such as a black light) help scientists learn about invisible things.
8. Allow students to color the sheet if desired. Light coloring does not affect black light image.
9. Use the black light on each student’s sheet to reveal a “germ.”
10. Discuss how germs can be hiding on unwashed hands, dishes or glasses, even when they look clean.



Invisible Things Activity Sheet
Available for free download at
www.handwashing.nmsu.edu.

To add your own cartoon 'invisible germs', use a UV felt pen to draw germs. It is more effective to select pens without any color in the ink so the 'germs' appears invisible upon casual observation.

Takeaway Lesson: Even though your hands look clean, they can still carry germs.



Use the black light on each student’s sheet to reveal a “germ.” Discuss how germs can be hiding.