

# Watch Germs Spread

## OBJECTIVE

Try this hands-on science experiment to demonstrate how germs spread from one person to another.

**Skills learned:** Germ awareness, small motor coordination, observation and experimentation

## MATERIALS

- Cornstarch or Flour
- Large Plastic Bag
- Wet Ones® Antibacterial Wipes

## DIRECTIONS

- Explain that the germs that can make us sick are invisible and can spread easily because we don't see them.
- Hide a small quantity of flour or cornstarch in your hand and then pretend to sneeze or cough into your hand.
- Now shake hands with a child sitting near you.
- Ask that child to shake hands with a child near him, until all the children have had a chance to shake hands.
- Ask, "What happened to your hands? How did the flour get there?" Children can figure out that it started when you pretended to cough into your hand!
- To end the activity, pass out Wet Ones® wipes to clean the pretend germs off! Remind children that, "The antibacterial formula in Wet Ones® wipes will clean off invisible germs from your hands. So, remember to use them after your cough or sneeze."

## LESSON EXTENSION

This Extended Play Variation is one of the best ways to show children how hand wiping stops the spread of germs around the room.

- Fill a large plastic bag with flour or cornstarch. Explain that this is a container full of "pretend germs," while reassuring children they are not real.
- Have children pretend that they forgot to wash their hands and ask them to dip their hand in the mixture before they go off to the next activity.
- Soon children will see the trail of "germs" they are leaving on everything they touch!
- End the activity by giving each child a Wet Ones® wipe to clean off the germs they left around the room. Then give one more to wipe their hands before they go off to play... no trail now!