



SUPER FAB LAB INVESTIGATION:

Magnification Observation

Episode: The Rolie Polie

Cycle: Tools & Measurement

PLEASE NOTE: This is a printable activity that relates to the “Super Fab Lab” that Miss Susie performs with Sid and his classmates on the show. This activity has been modified for home or school use.

Purpose (What We’re Going to Explore and Learn)

- We’re going to learn about using magnifying glasses.
- We’ll use them to observe things that are too tiny to see with our eyes alone.

Materials (The Stuff We Need)

- Magnifying glasses
- Objects with tiny parts or details that are difficult to see such as leaves, flowers, shells, etc.

Procedure (What to Do)

1. If children haven’t used a magnifying glass before, we can almost guarantee that they’ll need some time to just play around with it. Kids love just “making things bigger” without worrying too much about how that helps them observe in new ways. Grab your own magnifying glass and join the fun.
2. Eventually, you can begin to focus the exploration. Find something that would be hard to see with out the magnifier. The patterns on your fingertips are a good example. Can your child see something new with the magnifying glass?
3. As you and the children observe the patterns on the ends of your fingers, compare and contrast what you observe with and without the magnifiers.
4. Observe some of the other hard-to-see items and patterns. Describe what you see.

Other Stuff You Might Want to Know or Do

- Inexpensive magnifying glasses can be found at toy stores, school supply outlets, and general merchandise stores.
- Use descriptive language to talk about what you are observing. Encourage children to do so, too.
- Children can record what they’ve observed in their journals.