



# The Germs Don't Stand a Chance — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–1 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Management

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**Objective:** Students will learn the 20-second handwashing technique, understand when and why handwashing matters, and view hygiene as an empowering daily hero moment.

**Essential Question:** *"Why is soap the ultimate superhero weapon — and why can't water do the job alone?"*

**Materials:** The personalized story, Glitter (to represent germs), Soap and water station, Paper and crayons

**Vocabulary:** Germs, Microscopic, Soap, Lather, Scrub, Rinse, Bacteria, Handwashing, Hygiene, Countdown

## ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Show glitter-covered hands. Ask: "If these sparkles were invisible germs, how would you get them off?" Take predictions. "Let's find out — with science!"

## DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause when the Germ army appears. Pause when SOAP arrives. Run the Glitter Germ Experiment as a class demonstration during or after reading. Emphasize the three key moments: before eating, after bathroom, after playing.

## GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Glitter Germ Experiment (all students). Practice 20-second technique together at the sink or with hand motions at desks.

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Draw your own Germ character and their defeat-by-soap story. Write: "I will wash my hands after \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

## CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Class 20-second countdown together. Commit: "The three times I'll always wash are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."

## ASSESSMENT

Can children demonstrate proper 20-second technique? Can they name three key handwashing moments? Exit ticket: "Why doesn't water alone defeat the germs?"

## DIFFERENTIATION

**Support:** Provide pre-drawn Germ templates. Use a visual handwashing sequence chart.

**Extend:** Research: How does soap actually work? (It breaks the germ's outer coating.) Create a "Germ Gazette" classroom newspaper with hygiene tips.

## HOME CONNECTION

Send home the countdown song lyrics and a "WANTED" poster template. Ask families to practice the 20-second technique together.