**Nappy testing**

**Key Stage Two**

**NC references**

* taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate
* recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs
* reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and a degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations

**Learning objectives**

Observe, measure and draw conclusions

Consider which type of nappies might be best for the environment

**Teaching ideas**

Present a range of nappies and their prices: does the most expensive nappy absorb the most?

Children can use coloured water and measure how much a nappy can hold by pouring water onto the nappy. They might predict how much the nappy will hold before starting the investigation.

What changes occur in the nappy?

How does it absorb the water?

**Resources**

Range of disposable nappies (plus other types of nappy if completing a comparative test)

Coloured water

Measuring cylinders

**Next steps**

Carefully tear open a nappy to observe the absorbent gelling material. Pampers state that this can ‘retain up to 30 times its weight in liquid’ – is this true?

Compare the absorbency of disposable with reusable nappies. Could you convince someone to use reusable nappies?

Investigate from a historical perspective: how do modern disposables compare to toweling nappies or even to moss (which is said to have been used as primitive sanitary wear!)?

Find out what happens to nappies when they are buried in landfill: this could be simulated in the classroom by burying a clean nappy, or part of it, in a clear plastic bottle or in a clear plastic box and observing whether changes occur.

Estimate how many nappies a child may wear in their lifetime? What implications does this have for the environment, landfill and pollution?