

Matter All Around

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First Grade Scientists explored the world of matter all around them! They wondered...

- What is matter?
- How can we change matter?
- How can we use this knowledge to help others?

Investigating solids, liquids, and gases led to several fun creations such as play dough, chalk, goo, and bubbles. Our scientists had so much fun exploring and learning about matter that they decided to share their creations with others; they each prepared a Matter Activity Box to donate to children at San Diego's Ronald McDonald House.

Teacher Reflections

Going into this project we wanted to tap into first graders' natural curiosity and excitement, so we built the learning around hands-on, messy explorations. Our instincts were right. First grade scientists couldn't wait to see what each day had in store for them! Their enthusiasm became a natural bridge linking their initial curiosity to authentic learning. As scientists, they wondered, tested ideas, discovered new ways of thinking, and made connections between matter and the world around them. Our students understood the importance of helping families at The Ronald McDonald House and empathized with what it would be like to be away from the comforts (and toys!) of home. Our scientists knew they weren't making bubbles, play dough, and chalk just for themselves—they were excited to give their Matter Activity Boxes away. As teachers who work with the littlest of learners, we were proud this project included so much excitement and learning, and benefitted the community.

Student Reflections

This project was awesome because I learned what matter is, how it works, and how it changes to other kinds of matter. —Zuri

I feel happy because the Ronald McDonald House kids have something to play with so they won't be bored. —Khalel

Now that I donated my activity box I'm so proud of myself. I feel like a party is in my heart! —Carlo