Ms. Valerie's Learning at Home Activity

Make a Rain Gauge

How to Make

MATERIALS:

- Plastic bottle with smooth sides
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Sand to fill the bottom section of the bottle
  or dirt or even water
- Colored masking or duck tape (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. With a grownup's help, cut the top section off the plastic bottle.
2. Use the ruler and marker to make one-inch marks on a piece of tape (or even on the side of the bottle if you don't have colored tape.
   
   *Hint: start with a zero mark as a starting point.*
3. Put sand (or dirt or even water) in the bottom section of the bottle to improve the accuracy of the measurement. The bottom is typically shaped and uneven.
4. Place the tape on the side of the bottle, starting with the zero mark at the top of the sand level.
5. Invert the top section of the bottle into the bottom section. You may be able to get it to fit tightly or you may have to use a little piece of tape to secure it. This works as a funnel for the water.
6. Place your rain gauge outside to measure how much rain there is on a rainy day.
   
   *Hint: Secure your rain gauge between some rocks or potted plants so it won't tip or blow over.*

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