PARENT NOTES: Chromatography!

CHROMATOGRAPHY LAB

Today we learned how to separate out different parts in a mixture using a technique called ‘chromatography’ and we built a chromatography lab to help us compare samples. From this we were able to determine the individual colours that some colouring pens are made from. We also learned about wicking which is the process of how a paper towel absorbs water along its length.

ASK YOUR CHILD

What did you make today?
(A chromatography testing lab)

What is chromatography?
(The separation of different parts of a mixture)

Which coloured pens had the most different colours in them?
(In general, darker colours like brown and black work the best because they are a mixture of lots of different coloured inks)

Why do the colours separate out?
(Dark coloured inks are made from a mix of different colours, and each colour is made up of a different size and shape of molecule. When the paper gets wet, the water travels up the paper and pulls the different coloured molecules with it. Molecules of different colours can travel different distances up the paper).