## Let's Find Out About It: Opaque/Transparent/Translucent



## Materials:

- Moonbear's Shadow
- a variety of opaque, transparent, translucent objects, including ziplock bag, paper bag, small containers, paint brush
- flashlight
- words written on the board or on a piece of paper, to reference during lesson: opaque, transparent, translucent


## Vocabulary:

- opaque
- transparent
- translucent
- shadow
- predict
- surface

Preparation: Gather materials.

## Let's Find Out About It:

"In Moonbear's Shadow, sunlight shone on Bear and created a shadow."
"Here is a (opaque object), a (transparent object) and a (translucent object). What do you predict will happen if we shine light on them?
"The (object) is opaque--we see light on its surface, but we can't see through it. The (object) is transparent-- we can see light shining through it and what's on the other side of it. The (object) is translucent--we can see light shining through it, but we can't see clearly what's on the other side of it."
"Here are other materials. Do you think this container is opaque, transparent or translucent?
"Let's check."
"Yes, this container is opaque, its blocking the light so we can't see the paintbrush inside."

Show materials.
Children respond.

Model. Point to words as they come up in discussion.

Show opaque container.
Children respond.
Model sticking the paintbrush into the container (half in and half out).
"Here is a clear plastic bag. Do you think the bag is opaque, transparent, or translucent?
"Yes, the bag is transparent, we can see the light shining through it so we can see the paintbrush."
"Here is a paper bag. Do you predict this bag is transparent, translucent, or opaque?"
"The bag is translucent, so we can see the paintbrush inside but not as clearly as through the clear plastic bag."
"Can you see what is inside this container? Why not?"
"If I put this toy in this container, will you be able to see what it is? How do you know this container is translucent?"

Show clear plastic bag. Children respond.
Stick the paintbrush in the bag.

Show a paper sandwich bag. Children respond.
Stick the paintbrush in the bag.

Show more transparent, opaque, and translucent objects.
Children predict.

Show an opaque box with a small toy inside.

Show a translucent container.
Children respond.


