

# **Making ointments:**

**Supplies: petrolatum jelly as a base**

# **Distilled water (for wetting powders)**

- **Use any of the following powders: Corn starch, baking powder, zinc oxide powder (can be bought on-line and can actually be used as sunscreen or diaper ointment), flour, etc.**

**Parchment paper or an ointment  
slab**

# **Spatula or tongue depressors**

**50 gm ointment jar (or 60 dram  
prescription vial that can be obtained  
at a local retail**

Pharmacy for about a quarter-have  
kids pick them up as part of project or  
work with

the pharmacist to give you a good  
price on an entire case) Dixie cups  
work too-just use

saran wrap and a rubber band to  
close it

# Compounding record

- **Coloring agent: colored powder (avail at pocket nurse, PSL pharmacy services, etc)  
Add colored powder to dry powder mix and blend well; or food coloring (if using food coloring, the food coloring will have to be added after the powder is made damp with the distilled water)**
- **Fake prescription/order : Make up an order based on the following information**



Make a 10% ointment. Have the  
students figure out the math for 50gm  
of ointment. (total active ingredient  
(powder) will be 5gm)



# **Step-by step**

Students need to figure the math for  
the project and have it checked by the  
teacher

Students will weigh out the different ingredients and put them into small Dixie cups or other container provided

Students need to weigh out empty  
50gm ointment jar and record the  
weight.

(powder) and mix thoroughly with a spatula on the parchment paper. (If using powdered coloring agent, students should blend the powders together before adding the water)

petrolatum jelly a fraction at a time.

The petrolatum should be mixed in using the spatula or tongue depressor in a scoop and smush action until well blended.

Transfer the “medication” into the 50gm ointment jar and put a label on it with correct information.

finished product in it and subtract the weight of the jar when it was empty. The final product should weigh 50gm +/- 3% (48.5gm-51.5gm)