

THE FIVE SENSES BOOK

GRADES K-2

MATERIALS

- 2-3 sheets of construction paper for each group of students, plus one sheet for the teacher
- Drawing supplies (crayons, colored pencils, etc.) for each group
- Collage supplies (magazine pages, children's scissors, glue stick, etc.) for each group
- Hole punch
- Yarn

BACKGROUND

This song celebrates the five senses, showing children how they use seeing, smelling, hearing, taste, and touch every day, even in such a simple activity as eating pizza. It also shows how other living creatures also use their senses, sometimes in ways humans might not expect.

By awakening children to the processes by which they experience their lives, the song encourages them to be conscious of, and curious about, the world around them. In turn, being interested in their environment helps them become more engaged, active, and creative learners.

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Divide up all the materials above (except the hole punch and yarn) so that they can easily be distributed to groups of 3-5 students.
- On one sheet of construction paper, draw some food that you like (or glue a picture of it cut from a magazine). Have fun with it; if at a loss for a subject, try chocolate chip cookies, since those will be mentioned during the activity. Underneath, write boldly all the senses you can think of that relate to the food (seeing, tasting, etc.).

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Talk with students about how they use their senses to notice things in their environment. Ask them what senses they use for chocolate chip cookies. See how many they can come up with: hearing them being made, smelling them when they bake, looking at them, touching them, tasting them.
2. Prompt students to think about things that we can't easily use all our senses for. What senses can we use to understand the moon? (Most people can only see it, but the astronauts touched it.) What about the air? (Trying to figure out exactly how you know air is there can be tricky!)

3. Tell the students they're going to work together to make a book all about the senses. Divide them into groups of 3-5, and explain that each group is going to add three items to the book—either by drawing or collage, whatever they want to do. Then the students in the group will talk among themselves to find out how many senses they can use for each item, and then they'll write those senses down.
4. As an example to get their minds running, hold up the food page you prepared beforehand. Explain that it's your contribution to the book, and show them that you've written in the senses that you thought of for it.
5. Get the students started. As they work, circulate around the room to answer any questions groups may have.
6. Once the groups have come up with their pages, bind the book together using the hole punch and yarn, and show off the finished product to them, pointing out how they use the five senses so creatively to understand the world around them. Keep the book in the classroom library.