



6 by 6 Seven Blind Mice Activity Kit

Guidelines.

There may be more than 1 activity or sign under each skill area. Signs should be brief, but explain what to do and why it's important.

SKILL AREA – TALK, TALK, TALK

- **Activity** – Mystery Box—The Mystery Box will contain items from the book: a fan, a piece of rope, a toy mouse, a toy elephant, a toy snake, a pillar. The child will put his hand in the box and tell what he is feeling. Photographs of the items are available on the large fan as “clues”.
- **Sign(s):** (with toucan graphic)

Put your hand in the Mystery Box and name the items you feel.

Use the photographs on the large fan to give your child a hint.

Hearing lots of language is linked to vocabulary development. The more words children hear, the easier it will be to decode written language when they start to read.

Supplies.

- Mystery Box
- Toy items from the book
- Labeled photographs on Large Fan

SKILL AREA – LOOK FOR LETTERS EVERYWHERE

- **Activity** –Colored Lens Fun – 6 Colored Looking Lenses and 3 white mice in a box puppet are provided for visual exploration.
- Sign(s): (with peacock graphic)
- Use the looking glasses to look for the three white mice. Can you make the mice orange blue, green, yellow or purple?
Looking at and playing with shapes is part of letter recognition. Understanding the concepts of same/different is the first step.
- **Supplies.**
 - 3 Sets of 6 Colored glasses
 - 3 Mice in a Box Puppet

SKILL AREA – LOOK FOR LETTERS EVERYWHERE

- **Activity** – Letter rubbings—children have paper and crayons and are able to make rubbings of various letters.
- Sign(s): (with peacock graphic)
- Use the paper and sides of the crayons to make bumpy letters come to life.*
A good letter to start with is the first letter of your child's first name. Discuss the sounds each letter makes and other words that start with each sound.
- **Supplies.**
 - Tactile letters
 - Crayons
 - Paper

* This activity could be used as a tactile experience only, if you're concerned about having crayons in your space.

SKILL AREA – TELL STORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING

- **Activity** – Big or Little. Simple Sequencing: Using different sizes of laminated mice and a replica of a mouse hole, see which ones fit, and put them in order of size.
- Sign(s): (with turtle graphic)
- Big or Little? Put the mice in order according to size. Big too little—little too big. Which ones fit through the mouse holes?
Putting things in order helps children understand the idea of “beginning, middle and end”, which is important for children who are ready to tell—and eventually read—stories.
- **Supplies.**
 - Replica mouse hole (plastic hoops)

- Laminated mice of various sizes

Note there is a sign without the mention of the mouse hole for an alternate activity without the hoops.

SKILL AREA – TELL STORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING (option 2)

- **Activity** – Stack the rings: Stack the rings in the same order as the mice were stacked in the book.
- Sign(s): (with turtle graphic)
- Stack the mice in the same color order as in the book.
Putting things in order helps children understand the idea of “beginning, middle and end”, which is important for children who are ready to tell—and eventually read—stories.
- **Supplies:**
 - Stacking Rings on Stand

SKILL AREA – TELL STORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING (option 3)

- **Activity** – Puzzle Pieces: Put the pieces of the jungle friends puzzle together and tell stories about them.
- Sign(s): (with turtle graphic)
- Put the puzzle together and tell a story about your creation.
Puzzles help children realize that parts fit together, just as different details fit together to make a story.
- **Supplies:**
 - Jungle Friends Bilingual Puzzle

SKILL AREA – TELL STORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING (option 4)

- **Activity**–String the Beads
- Signs (with turtle graphic)
- String the beads in the same color order as the mice in the book. What colors are missing? What other patterns can you make?
Putting things in order helps children understand the idea of “beginning, middle and end”, which is important for children who are ready to tell—and eventually read—stories.

SKILL AREA–NOTICE PRINT ALL AROUND YOU

- **Activity:** Mouse Days. Child matches colored mouse with appropriate day of the week which has been written on the magnetic board with chalk ink.
- Sign (with kangaroo graphic)

- Match the mouse with the day of the week. Which day did the white mouse go out? The red? Orange? Purple? Green? Yellow? Blue?

Looking at words in the environment helps kids learn that printed text is important.

- **Supplies:**
 - Laminated colored mice with magnets
 - Chalk ink

SKILL AREA – TAKE TIME TO RHYME

- **Activity** – Make Mouse Music: Parent or Caregiver will tap out a simple rhythm with the Boom Whackers. The child will repeat the rhythm back to the adult.

- Sign(s): (with Goat graphic)

- Make Mouse Music: Tap out a simple rhythm with the Boom whackers. Have your child repeat the rhythm to you. Try “3 Blind Mice”!!

Rhythm and songs help your child learn to hear the smaller sounds of language, which will help your child sound out words when learning to read.

- Supplies:
 - Boom Whackers

SKILL AREA – TAKE TIME TO RHYME

- **Activity**–Caregiver encourages child to replace the “m” in “mice” with another letter sound.
- Sign: (with goat graphic)Rhyming Mice

What word would you have if you replace the “M” in mice with an

- “N”?
- “R”?
- “D”
- “SL”
- What other fun sounds can you make?

Most children who have difficulty reading are having trouble hearing and manipulating these smaller sounds in words

Overall SKILL AREA – HAVE FUN WITH BOOKS

- Sign: (with monkey graphic)



Seven Blind Mice

Early Literacy Kit Contents

Included.	Returned
___ Mystery Box with pictures clues on fan	___
___ (6) Objects From Story (elephant, rope, pillar, fan, mouse and snake)	___
___ Mouse puppet	___
___ Elephant Puppet	___
___ Stack color rings	___
___ First Jungle Puzzle (Bilingual)	___
___ (1) Visual Explorers Large Magnifying Glass	___
___ (5) Boom whackers	___
___ (3) Sets of 6 Color Viewers on string	___
___ Three Mice in a Box Puppet	___
___ Bag of stringing beads & laces	___
___ First Lacers (7 beads & string)	___
___ First Crayon Set w/ Tactile letters, upper & lower case	___
___ Plastic hoops--2 sizes (12)	___
___ (2) Copies of Seven Blind Mice (1) HB (1) PB--(not for checkout)	___
___ Laminated white mice (12)	___
___ Laminated colored mice with magnets (21)	___
___ Chalk ink (2)	___
___ Fan with Rhyming letters and pictures	___

What you need to provide.

Sign holders

Paper for letter rubbings

Magnet Board

Your comments – what worked, what didn't, your suggestions.