

Learning About the 5 Senses Using the Body Cube

Description: The purpose of this activity is to teach elementary students about the functions of the 5 body senses.

Goals: Elementary school children will explore how their bodies receive information from the outside world using a combination of storytelling and a simple game.

Objectives: There are two objectives for learners:

- (1) Students will apply the core curriculum items related to the 5 senses;
- (2) Each student will describe how they used a sense to gather information about the world around them (or how an animal gathers information about the world around them).

Materials:

- Illustrated science book or video to review information on the 5 body senses
- medium-sized square cardboard packing box decorated with line drawings or other illustrations of body parts; (optional) classroom posters or bulletin board illustrating children seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling.

Procedure:

Prior to the class session:

Seal the openings of a medium-sized square cardboard packing box. Decorate each side with colorful illustrations (line drawings, magazine cut-outs, or photographs) that illustrate the 5 body senses: eyes for seeing, ear for hearing, fingers and toes for touching, mouth and tongue for tasting, and nose for smelling. On the sixth side, paste illustrations of a girl and boy or a smiley face and write the words, "Roll again."

To make a smaller version, cut the bottoms off two half-gallon cardboard milk cartons. Push them together to make a cube. Cover with contact paper and add required senses illustrations to each side.

Guiding the activity:

Begin class by describing the purpose of the lesson.

Read selections from an illustrated book that describes how our bodies receive information from the outside world, show a video or plan as an end of the unit activity.

Introduce the Body Cube game.

The rules are simple. Each student will roll the Body Cube on the floor. The player must describe how they used a sense to gather information about the world as shown on the side of the cube, e.g., I used my tongue to taste morning snack before recess.

Be sure to answer students' questions before beginning the game.

Peers may assist students who have difficulty describing use of a body sense.

Extension: Animal Senses

Make "Animal Cubes" similar to the Body Cube but with pictures of animals on the sides. After the student rolls the cube he/she needs to describe how that particular animal may use its senses to gather information about the world around it (you may also ask the student to tell which sense is most important to do this).

Assessment: Student's accurate descriptions of how he or she used a sense to gather information about the world around them as shown on the Body Cube.