



Frisch's Outreach: Animal Senses (Pre-K-K) Extensions

At a glance

This program will allow students to explore their own senses and the senses of animals through various activities and animal encounters.

Goal

This lesson is designed to offer students time to explore their five senses, sight, touch, hearing, taste, and smell, while helping them to understand how and why animals use these same senses for survival.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to name their five senses.
2. Students will understand that these senses aid both people and animals in survival.
3. Students will develop a respect for animals and the role they play in the natural world.

Theme

People and animals use their five senses in many different ways to help them survive in the world around them.

Sub-themes

1. When a sense is absent or less well-formed or used, animals and people will rely more heavily on their other senses.
2. When a sense is relied on more heavily than others, it can become more acute.



Academic standards

Ohio Science Academic Content Standards	<i>Early Childhood Standards (ages 4-5)</i> Scientific Inquiry: 1, 2, 5 Scientific Ways of Knowing: 1, 3 <i>Kindergarten Standards</i> Scientific Inquiry: 1, 2, 4, 10 Scientific Ways of Knowing: 1, 2, 3
Kentucky Core Content—Science	<i>Grades Primary-4</i> SC-E-3.1.1

Vocabulary

Hearing—the process of perceiving sound.

Sense—the process of perceiving or understanding through one of the sense organs.

Sight—the process or function of seeing; the act of looking or beholding

Smell—the process of perceiving an odor or scent.

Taste—the process of understanding the flavor of something by putting it in your mouth.

Touch—the process of handling or feeling gently with the intent to understand or appreciate

Extension

Play the game “Where is My Baby?”

Mother bats can find their babies among many by using their sense of smell.

Designate one student as a “mother bat”. Give all of the other students, the “baby bats”, cotton balls. (You can choose to put them in an uncapped film canister if you



wish). All of these cotton balls are unscented except for one that is strongly scented with perfume or another strong scent. Challenge the “mother bat” to visit each of the “baby bats” until she finds her own baby (the one with the scented cotton ball). Mix up the players and the cotton ball and continue to play until all of the students have had a turn playing the different roles.

Play a form of “Simon Says”, have the students imitate movements of animals using their senses. Some examples are:
 Use your eyes like an eagle.
 Use your tongue like a snake.
 Use your ears like a rabbit.
 Use your nose like a fox.
 Use your fingers to touch like a gorilla.



Spend time outdoors! Set boundaries for your exploration spot. Allow the children to move freely within those boundaries. Next, ask individuals or small groups to explore within a smaller area marked off by string. How many things can they see? Hear? Touch? Smell?

Take a hike! Bring along small bags or cut egg cartons to collect things of interest. Make sure those collected things are “down” and not pulled off of plants, etc.

Take a nature stroll! Bring along a favorite stuffed animal. Help the animal take a nature stroll! Help the animals see, hear, smell, and touch all the wonderful discoveries.

Lie down on the job! Take a break and go outside. Children lie down on their backs and look up! What do they see? Hear? Smell? Later, record what they experienced. Do this at different times of the year. Is anything the same? Different? Why?

Create a picture book! Will it be about how we use our senses? Will it tell what we would look like with animal eyes, nose, ears, etc.?

Resources

Books:

Bowden, Marcia. Nature for the Very Young: a Handbook for Indoor and Outdoor Activities. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1989.

Wilson, Ruth. Fostering a Sense of Wonder During the Early Childhood Years. Greyden Press. 1993.

Websites:

ALA's Great Websites for Kids:

Animals

<http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/displaysection.cfm&sec=1>

Awesome Library – Kids

<http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Classroom/Science/Animals/Animals.html>

Awesome Library – Teachers

<http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Classroom/Science/Animals/Animals.html>

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

www.cincinnati-zoo.org

Internet Public Library/KidSpace/
Animals (comprehensive listing)
<http://www.ipl.org/kidspace/browse/mas4500>

KinderNature: A Resource for Early
Childhood Educators
<http://kindernature.storycounty.com>

National Geographic: Animals
<http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>

National Association for the Education
of Young Children
www.naeyc.org

