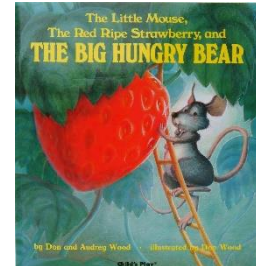




### **The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry and The Big Hungry Bear**

Authors: Don & Audrey Wood



If you don't have the book at home, copy and paste this link to hear the author read the book to you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apvgbUckC-k>

After reading the book, you can try some of the following activities which build on concepts from the book and create fun early learning experiences.

#### **Mouse Mask**

Materials needed:

- 1 paper plate per mask
- Pipe cleaners
- Yarn or string
- Markers, crayons or pencil crayons
- Stapler or tape



1. Cut paper plate in half.
2. On one half of the paper plate, use a hole punch to start two holes for eyes. Use scissors to make eye holes bigger.
3. Using hole punch, make holes on each side of mask. Tie one length of string through each hole. These will be used to tie the mask around your young reader's head.
4. Cut other half of paper plate in half (these two pieces will each be 1/4 of original plate).
5. Staple or tape each ear to the top of the mask.
6. Use crayons, markers or pencil crayons to color the mask.
7. Staple or tape two pipe cleaners to the bottom of the face piece to form whiskers. If you don't have pipe cleaners, strips of cut construction paper can be used instead.
8. Using a marker or crayon, draw a nose on the mask.

## GET ACTIVE!!!

### Games:

#### 1. Keep it Away from the Big Hungry Bear

Decorate a red balloon like a strawberry (or use any object e.g. ball, pillow and pretend it's a strawberry). Have someone be the "mouse" and someone be the "bear". The mouse takes the "strawberry" and tries to run away from the bear. When the bear tags the mouse he becomes the mouse, holds the strawberry and runs away from the bear.

#### 2. Hide the Strawberry

Using felt or paper, cut out some strawberry shapes in different sizes (e.g. big, small, wide, skinny, green, red, long, short). You could use a mouse puppet, and say, "Mouse is going to hide all these lovely strawberries from the big hungry bear! Which one should he hide first? How about the skinniest strawberry? Which one is skinny and thin?" Go through all the berries, using as many good describing words as you can. For the green one talk about ripe and unripe!

## Rhymes & Songs

### Under a Tree

Under a tree (clap, clap)  
Behind a house (clap, clap)  
There lived a teeny (clap, clap)  
Tiny mouse (clap, clap)  
She loved to dance (clap, clap)  
She loved to tap (clap, clap)  
But most of all (clap, clap)  
She loved to clap (clap, clap)  
She clapped all night (clap, clap)  
She clapped all day (clap, clap)  
She clapped to frighten (clap, clap)  
The BEAR away (clap, clap).



### Three Brown Bears

(Tune: Three Blind Mice)

Three brown bears,  
Three brown bears,  
See all their beds,  
See all their chairs,  
The mommy cooked in  
A big brown pot,  
The daddy's porridge  
Was much too hot  
The baby bear always cried a lot,  
Three brown bears.



## Five Little Bears

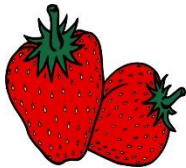
One little bear wondering what to do  
Along came another then there were two!  
Two little bears climbing up a tree  
Along came another then there were three!  
Three little bears ate an apple core  
Along came another then there were four!  
Four little honey bears found honey in a hive  
Along came another then there were five! ...



...Five little bears heard a loud roar  
One ran away then there were four!  
Four little bears climbing up a tree  
One slid down then there were three!  
Three little bears deciding what to do  
One fell asleep then there were two!  
Two little bears having lots of fun  
One went home then there was one!  
One little bear feeling all alone  
Ran to his mother then there were none!



## Five red strawberries



Five red strawberries, sweet to the core,  
Bear came and ate one and then there were four,  
Four red strawberries, growing near a tree,  
Bear came and ate one and then there were three.  
Three red strawberries for you and you and you.  
Bear came and ate one and then there were two...

...Two red strawberries, sitting in the sun.  
Bear came and ate one and then there was one.  
One red strawberry, left all alone.  
Bear came and ate it and then there was none.

Need a laugh? Try this joke with your child:

What do mice do when they are home?  
Answer: Mousework!



## Literacy Tip of the week:



# Rhymers Will Be Readers!

*"Rhymers will be readers; it's that simple."*

*Experts in literacy and development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they are usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.*

*From songs, children learn words, sentences, rhythm, rhyme and repetition, all of which they'll find later in the books they read."*

Mem Fox, 2001, *Reading Magic*



### Did you know:

- Your baby can learn some of the actions to a rhyme as early as four months old
- Your baby needs to hear lots of language in her first years
- Rhymes can be playful or be calming
- Rhymes and songs help you and your child to bond
- Rhyming together is learning together

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