

Super Senses: It's a Sense-ational Exploration (for children entering grades 1 - 4)

Gather Together as a Group 1st before proceeding to "Senses Stations"

Introduction: This year, our summer reading theme is "Every Hero Has a Story." We can talk about real life heroes and the important things they have done and what makes a hero. We can also talk about superheroes.

- What kinds of things can superheroes do that we regular people cannot do?
- What are your five senses? (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting)
- Superheroes can often do amazing things and have super abilities even super senses! Can superheroes have super senses? What are some of their super senses and how are they different from our senses? (e.g. X-ray vision, supersonic hearing, touching objects that turn to fire, etc.). Even though we may not have super-duper senses like some superheroes, our senses are pretty amazing and allow us to explore our world in a variety of ways.
- Do you think one of your senses is really strong? (e.g. Is your sense of hearing better than your sense of tasting or seeing?) If so, how do you know this?
- Read: *My Five Senses* by Aliko
- Read: *Senses at the Seashore* by Shelley Rotner
 - ✓ Prior to reading, ask: How many of you have been to the beach? What might you **see** at the beach? **Hear** at the beach? **Taste** at the beach? **Touch** at the beach? **Smell** at the beach?
- Read portions of *You Can't Taste a Pickle with your Ear: A Book about your 5 Senses* by Harriet Ziefert

Five Sense Stations: children will explore their five senses at each of the five Sense Stations. Have teen volunteers help to create some activities for the sense stations and sign them up to man the sense stations to assist the children during the program.

For many of the Sense activities, I used the Kids Health site:

http://kidshealth.org/kid/closet/experiments/experiment_main.html

SEE

- Display Optical Illusions Books for children to explore: *Gallop! Waddle! and Swing!* by Rufus Butler Seder;
- (set up a laptop at this station) "What do you See?" Color Blindness Test in "Kids Discover: The 5 Senses" & Color Blind Testing web site
<http://colorvisiontesting.com/online%20test.htm>

- Make a Thaumatrope (bird in cage) – children color and put together & try sight experiment (SRP 2014 p. 91)
- “Catch the Penny” Experiment from the Kids Health site
http://kidshealth.org/kid/closet/experiments/experiment_main.htm

HEAR

- “Do you hear what I hear?” Experiment from <http://kidshealth.org> – see how many sounds you can recognize. Senses Experiment: Do You Hear What I Hear? – use ordinary noise items from the instructions
- Free Animal Sounds app loaded on an iPhone, iPad, tablet or Android device (guessing game – children can work in pairs)
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/free-animal-sounds/id580044747?mt=8>

TASTE

- Smell It/Taste It Experiment – our sense of smell is VERY important to our sense of taste
- (p. 90 in 2014 SRP manual; p.16 *DK's I'm a Scientist: My Body – Fun Experiments for Budding Scientists*)
- “No flavor without saliva” Experiment from <http://kidshealth.org> – saliva is essential in helping us truly taste our food. – test how saliva works to enhance the flavor of foods (taste buds): cookies, crackers, pretzels, paper towels, water

TOUCH

- (p. 91 in 2014 SRP manual) “Feel Your Way” Mystery Brain Box: put in various items in box and have children guess what they are (have the teens make the mystery box prior to the program during teen volunteer time)

SMELL

- (p. 90 in 2014 SRP manual) Smelling different food samples (covered in cups) – oranges, lemons, vanilla extract, peppermint tea, cinnamon, perfume, onion, garlic, coffee, pencil shavings, potato chips, etc. – guess what they are
- “Smell It/Taste It” Experiment (Smell & Taste working together)

3. Videos & Snack (using our sense of seeing, hearing and tasting) – this can be done at the end of the program (two options)

- Show “Human Body: All About Senses” (fast forward through “Try It” segments)
- Like superheroes, animals have super senses: Show all or some of the “Animal Senses” video from the award-winning TV show “Animal Atlas”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj2EC6GG7-Y&app=desktop>

For more information about a Senses Theme Program, consult the 2014 SRP Manual (pp. 89-92)

I have pinned some Senses activity ideas to my Pinterest Boards: My Board “SRP 2015” and look at the Board I follow called “SRP 2015 - Every Hero Has a Story” for some additional ideas for a Super Senses Program or other Superhero themed ideas.

Display fiction and nonfiction books about the senses, animals and their senses and superheroes with super senses. For example, tie in the super senses of animals with books such as *Sniffer Dogs: How Dogs (and Their Noses) Save the World* by Nancy Castaldo.

There are a lot of activities and lessons for children online using and exploring the senses. Go ahead and do a search and see what you can come up with!

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