

BACK TO SCHOOL LESSON PLANS FOR

IF YOU TAKE A MOUSE TO SCHOOL

BY LAURA NUMEROFF



When I was a classroom teacher, *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff was one of my favorite book studies to do with my new class each September. There are so many opportunities to bring this book to life with a little planning and some imagination. It helps to have a little mouse puppet or stuffed animal to use during the activities. Our mouse finger puppet became the class mascot for the year!

| Block Center | Literacy |
|---|---|
| <p>HOUSE FOR A MOUSE - Not all children naturally know how to play with blocks. Encouraging them to build a house for Mouse like in the story gives them some incentive to explore a center that may usually be out of their comfort zone.</p> | <p>SEQUENCING – Allow the children time to draw their favorite parts of the book. Use their artwork to sequence the events of the story and display this timeline on the wall or in a class book.</p> |
| Math | Science |
| <p>COOKIE SURPRISE – Have a lunchbox of chocolate chip cookies waiting in the classroom for the children as a gift with a note from the mouse! But oh no!!! There are not enough cookies for everyone, so a discussion begins on how to solve this problem. A playdough table with cookie cutters and safe cutting tools would allow the students to explore solutions to this issue. Cut them in half? Bake more? Maybe a survey to see who wants a cookie and who does not. Add</p> | <p>VOLCANO EXPERIMENT - Set up a potion station where the pouring and mixing of mystery items can be explored and results observed. Use white powders like flour, sugar, salt and baking soda and clear liquids such as water, Sprite and vinegar. (Placing the liquids in plastic squirt bottles works great.) Offer food coloring for that pop of color or glitter for sparkle. Let them take the time to notice that it's the baking soda and vinegar that makes the magic! Take it to the next level by providing</p> |

magnetic or foam numbers to the center to help the children keep up with their findings. Eventually the teacher will find some more cookies from Mouse and, of course, there's enough for all!

materials to make unique volcano structures for their experiments. I really liked the tape and cup volcanos linked here:
<https://www.bingobongokids.com/quick-and-easy-volcano-experiment/>

Large Motor/Literacy

Craft

LETTER RECOGNITION - Have some early literacy fun involving large motor skills with this cute sidewalk chalk, alphabet cookie game
<https://theeducatorsspinonit.com/sidewalk-chalk-alphabet-cookie-themed-fun/>

MOUSE CRAFT WITH PREDICTIONS - Crafts get a bad rap, but they still have a place in our classrooms. Kids enjoy making them, parents love seeing them, and they are good activities for fine tuning cutting skills, glue techniques and following directions!
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5Mdg5J5jcyZejY5VTlvZDFidTg/view?resourcekey=0-fkpaTZn8ys5-SYocCyCm8Q_
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5Mdg5J5jcyZYnJsMO5aRlpEV28/view?resourcekey=0-zLOQGv_9RMZ6lvFDBC1gpA

Where to Next?

Click the link below for the complete Laura Numeroff collection available at your Nashville Public Library.

[Laura Numeroff | Nashville Public Library](#)

Comments or questions? Contact Shannon Albee | BBTL Curriculum & Training Coordinator
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