

Houston Zoo at Home

MUMBLES THE RHINO

For these activities watch the video of Zookeeper Memory and Mumbles the rhino.
Click here to watch!

All About Senses

All Ages

Mumbles our rhino has poor eyesight but a very strong sense of hearing and smell. He relies on these stronger senses to gather information about his surroundings just like rhinos in the wild. Do you think you can smell, hear, taste, or touch better than Mumbles the rhino?

Activity 1: What's that smell?

Materials Needed: Assorted Snacks, Blindfold

1. Have a family member collect a few of your favorite snack items.
2. Blindfold the participant without showing them which snacks have been chosen.
3. Place the snacks in front of the participant.
4. Pick up and examine each snack item. Use your senses of touch, smell, hearing, and finally taste to try and identify which of your favorite snacks it is!
5. See how many senses you need to use in order to get it right. Can you complete the challenge just by using touch and hearing alone? What makes the combination of our senses so powerful?

Activity 2: Can you hear me know?

Materials Needed: Sheets of paper (2), Tape, Scissors

Roll your paper into a funnel and tape the sides together to keep its shape. These will be your rhino ears! Place your rhino ears up to your ears and see if you notice a difference! Can you hear a family member talking from far away? Can you still hear them if they whisper?

Level Up Challenge: Play the telephone game! To play this game, have everyone sit in a circle or stand in a straight line. The first person in the line or circle tells something to the person next to them, quietly enough so that no one else can hear. The second player whispers what they heard to the person next to them, and so on until it reaches the last person. This last player says what they heard out loud so everyone can hear. Did the message change from beginning to end? If so, how much? Is it easier to keep the message consistent with or without your rhino ears?

Share your project with us!

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