

JOE WHITE

ARE YOU A LION?



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SENSORY STORY

Are You a Lion

A Multi-Sensory Dressing Up Activity by Joe White

As with any activity the storyteller needs to be attuned to the learner's individual sensory preferences. Nothing about this sensory experience should be aversive. It will be up to the storyteller to involve the learner as much as possible in the storytelling experience. Wherever possible communication should be encouraged, this may be eye contact, preferences, or consent. The learner should be as active a participant as possible fully empowered - if they don't want pretend lion tails on then fine - you wear them.

If you need to adapt this story to meet an individual's needs do so. When reading it you must be fully involved.

Essential Sensory resources

A Mirror - This will be securely placed where the learner can see it. I use a perspex mirror designed for young children as it is light and safe. I have used car mirrors that attach to the headrest to allow parents to see their babies.

A box to keep the resources - you can reveal them from the box to build anticipation and joint attention. You really have two choices here - to have a consistent sensory story box, or to use a themed box i.e. a Treasure chest

Are You a Lion?

Sensory Resources

Yellow Wig or Mane Headband: Create a lion's mane using a wig or headband with yarn.

Furry Gloves: Use gloves to mimic the padded paws of a lion.

Brown or Tan Blanket: A simple way to create the appearance of a lion's fur.

Lion Eye Stickers: Craft or buy stickers to represent sparkling lion eyes.

Lion Tail: Easily attachable tails can be found or made with yarn and felt.

Toy Microphone: Amplify your roar with a fun toy microphone.

Play Teeth or Paper Cutouts: Use these for a fierce lion's smile.

Black Nose Sticker: A small sticker or face paint can create a lion's nose.

Knee Pads or Leg Warmers: These can emulate the strong legs of a lion.

Fuzzy Slippers: Perfect for recreating the lion's mighty feet.

Are you a Lion?

You might be a lion if you have...

A golden mane that flows

(Wear a yellow wig or mane headband)

You might be a lion if you have...

Big padded paws

(Slip on some furry gloves)

You might be a lion if you have...

Soft tawny fur all over

(Wrap yourself in a brown or tan blanket)

You might be a lion if you have...

Eyes that twinkle bright

(Put on some fun lion eye stickers)

You might be a lion if you have...

A long swishy tail

(Attach a tail to your pants or belt)

You might be a lion if you have...

A loud roaring voice

(Use a toy microphone or big mack to roar)

You might be a lion if you have...

Sharp white teeth

(Wear some play teeth or use paper cutouts)

You might be a lion if you have...

A big wet nose

(Stick on a black nose sticker)

You might be a lion if you have...

Strong sturdy legs

(Step into some knee pads or leg warmers)

You might be a lion if you have...

Mighty, furry feet

(Put on some fuzzy slippers)

ROAR, YOU ARE A LION!!!

Making the Experience More Interactive

Here are some ways to make the sensory experiences in stories and poems more interactive for children:

Act out the experiences - Have children act out being the different characters or objects in the story. They can pretend to be a Lion growling and prowling

Take turns - Assign different sensory experiences or props to different children and have them take turns acting them out. This gives each child a chance to participate.

Add movements or sounds - Encourage children to make movements or sounds to match the props and experiences.

Ask questions - Pose open-ended questions to the children about the experiences to get them thinking and talking. "What does fur feel like?"

Invite touching/smelling - Allow children to directly interact with the props by touching, smelling and manipulating the real objects. This will make the experiences more concrete and memorable.

Retell the story - Have children retell the story using the props and experiences, in their own words. This shows how interactive experiences can help them internalize and remember details.