

## Let's Create

### Play dough

Measure and mix together in a bowl:

2 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup salt

2 packages unsweetened strawberry  
Kool-Aid

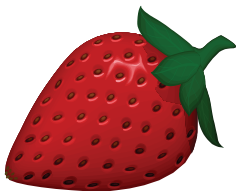
Boil 2 cups of water. Add to dry ingredients with 3 tbsp. of oil. Knead together until well mixed and let cool. Store in covered container in refrigerator when not in use.

With the play dough make big and little strawberries for little mouse and big bear. Can your child share the berries in equally between little mouse and big bear? How many berries will each of them get? If there is an unequal number of berries, how can the last berry be shared? Provide a plastic knife for your child to practice cutting the strawberries into halves.



## Let's Be Together

Talk to your child about how the mouse was feeling throughout the book.



How was he feeling when he first found the strawberry?

How did he feel when he heard about the bear?

How did he feel as he ate half of the red ripe strawberry?



Help your child to draw a picture of their favorite food.

Write under the picture how they feel when they eat it.



Talking about story characters can help children understand the feelings of others.



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## Let's Talk About Little Mouse, Red Ripe Strawberry & The Big Hungry Bear

Encourage language and problem solving skills. Ask your child questions such as:

Imagine that it is a big hungry gorilla after your banana.



Where could you hide it?



How could you guard it?



Could you disguise the banana?  
What would it look like?

"Red" and "ripe" begin with an "r" sound. Play a game with your child using clothespins. Print the letter "R" on several clothespins. Search the house together for things that begin with an "r" sound and hang them on a string clothesline with the "R" clothespins.

*This is a game that can be played with other sounds and eventually the whole alphabet.*



*Can your child hang the alphabet clothespins in order?*

## Let's Play With Rhymes

### There Was A Little Mouse

There was a little mouse

*(Run your fingers down child's arm to her hand)*

Who found a piece of cheese

*(Nibble your fingers in her palm)*

He gave this one a piece

*(Offer cheese to your child, yourself & to anyone present, real or imaginary)*

He gave this one a piece

He gave this one a piece

He gave this one a piece

Then he ran up into his house

And went to sleep!

*(Run your fingers back up to hide under the child's arm.)*



### Ring Around the Rosy

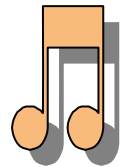
Ring around the rosy

Pocket full of posies,

Hush a, hush a,

We all fall down!

*Try singing this song circling an object that begins with an "r" sound. (perhaps already found for the "R" clothespin game.) Replace "rosy" with the name of this object. Help your child think of a word to rhyme with this object to sing at the end of "Pocket full of..." (e.g. Ring around the rocks. Pocket full of socks)*



## Note to Parents & Caregivers

Before children learn to read they need to hear the parts of words. Playing word games (like the Alphabet Clothespin game) and using rhymes (like "Five Little Mice") help children hear the beginning and ending sounds of words.

Rhymes and  
finger plays  
help  
children  
with  
reading.