

## The Five Senses

This month in school, your child learned about the five senses. The unit was accompanied by the song, "Just One Tongue."

**Lesson 1:** What Are the Senses?

**Lesson 2:** Our Senses Help Us Learn

**Lesson 3:** Let's Use Our Senses

**Lesson 4:** Problems with the Senses

## On the Cover

Look at the picture on the cover. Talk about how the five senses tell us about the world. Explain that two senses work together to help us taste. We can't taste our food as well if we can't smell it. For that reason, it's harder to taste food when we have a cold and our noses are stuffy.

## At the Dinner Table

At dinner tonight, why not talk about the senses? Remember the words in the song, "My senses work just great when my food is on my plate." Ask your child to describe what the food tastes like (salty, sweet, etc.). What do the foods smell like? Which foods are hot and which are cold?

## Word Wise

Can you find these words in the Student Issue? Read the words as a family.

**skin**—covers your body and has nerves to help you feel and touch

**ears**—the body part that helps you hear

**eyes**—the body part that helps you see

**tongue**—the body part that helps you taste

**nose**—the body part that helps you smell

## What Would It Be Like?

Children learned to appreciate hearing and seeing by imagining what it would be like if they didn't have these senses. It is important for children to try to understand what it feels like for those who are visually or hearing impaired.

Explain that everyone needs friends. Talk about different ways of showing friendship to someone who can't see or can't hear. How might we play with a friend who is blind? What are some things a friend who is deaf might like to do?

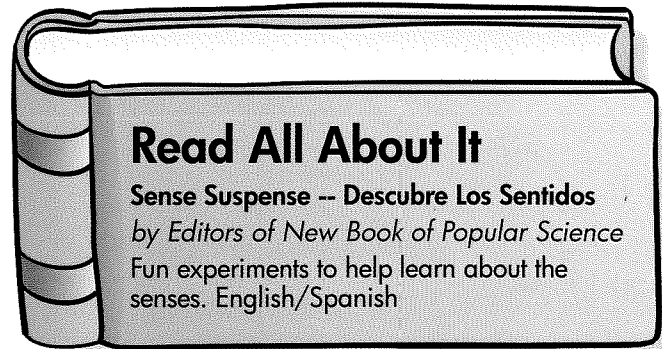
## Eye and Ear Safety

Tell your child: When you get something in your eye, don't rub it. Rubbing might scratch the eye. Ask an adult to help you wash it out with water. (You can also have your child pull the top eyelid over the bottom one and blink.)

Never put cotton swabs or anything else deep into the ear. To wash ears, use a washcloth and wash only the outside part of the ear.

Some children wear earplugs when they go swimming. The ear plugs keep extra water out of the ears, and prevent earaches. (Not all children need earplugs. Your doctor may recommend them if your child gets a lot of ear infections.)

When you and your child use headphones, make sure the volume is at a low, safe level. Listening to loud music can permanently hurt hearing.



**Word check:** What does the word "respectful" mean?

