



Senses Evening

Estimated Time:

5 minutes

10 minutes

40 minutes

5-10 minutes

15 minutes

10 minutes

This programme on a plate is designed to last a whole evening. You do not, however, have to use all of the activities suggested and they can be tailored to suit.

Arrival Activity

Senses Word Scramble – copy template onto card

Game

Numbered Football With A Twist

Activities

Senses Activities

Game

Crab Football (May need to leave this activity if visit mentioned below is arranged and time does not allow it)

Activity

Visit by visually impaired person and their guide dog (If this can be arranged).

Devotions

Talk: Mark 10 v46-52 Story Of Blind Bartimaeus
Read from Bible or tell the story in your own words.

Go on to discuss how the boys have used all of their senses in different ways that night. Mention how the game earlier became much harder when they could not use their ears to pick up the sound and how crab football is different from normal football. What would happen if they couldn't walk?

Song: He gave me eyes so I could see. (Junior Praise, 74 or Come and Praise, 18)

Prayer: Thank God for senses and all of our abilities. Pray that he helps us not to hold prejudice against those who are less fortunate and learn to tolerate all people.

Numbered Football with a Twist

This is a popular game with a small twist at the end to encourage the boys to think about how useful their senses are.

Instructions:

- Divide the boys into two teams and line them up along the wall in opposite corners of the wall.
- Set two small goals up on each far wall and place a football in the centre of the hall.
- Number the boys in each team from 1 upwards.
- Randomly call out a number and when a boy's number is called he must run out from his team corner and attempt to score a goal in the opposition's goal. If you have a large Junior Section and a large enough space you may wish to call several numbers out at a time.
- Once a goal is scored the players return to their corner and a new round begins.
- When the game is drawing to a close, explain to the boys that you are going to slightly change the rules. Now you are only going to mouth the number and they must lip-read to get the number.
- Do not worry if the boys find this difficult to do, as this is the point. Only a few rounds like this, as some of the boys may get despondent quickly.



No maximum number depending on adequate supervision



10 minutes per station



Senses Activities



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



5-10 minutes per activity

The following activities are designed to test all of the boys' senses and need to last for about 40 minutes. Dependent on staffing and number of boys you may decide to split the boys into small groups to go around each station in turn. Splitting the boys into groups may help in some activities where you may only be able to find a limited number of items that they need to identify so that you can reuse some with another group.

Equipment:

- Templates
- Crayons/pencils
- Blindfolds

Sight

For this activity you will need to set up an obstacle course and to blindfold each of the boys in turn and get them to traverse the obstacle course. Obstacles can be chairs or benches they have to go over, tables they must crawl under and hoops they must go through. Each boy is allowed a guide so it would be best to pair the boys off to begin with and one boy is blindfolded while the other boy guides him. If time is short you could let multiple pairs of boys go through the course at the same time.

Touch

This involves the boys touching regular household items that they cannot see and asking them to identify them. It is best to hide them behind a curtain or in a box that they have to put their hands into as this avoids blindfolding them again. It may be quite hard to find enough items for all boys to have a go. If you put items into a box you could send the boy out of the room and show the item to rest of the boys and then put it in the box and allow the boy who is identifying the item back in. Example items could be rolling pins, coat hangers, hairbrushes etc.

Hearing

There is a lot of choice in what you can do to let the boys use their hearing to help them. For example you can play television tunes, or popular chart songs or even random sounds from the home e.g. boiling kettle. Obviously, these sounds will need to be prepared onto a tape in advance, and the boys can be arranged in teams to try and identify these sounds. Sit the boys around tables in groups and give them pen and paper and ask them to write down what they think the sound is.

Taste

Use a good old-fashioned taste test. Good ways of doing this would be to fill bowls with several flavours of crisps and ask the boys to identify the flavour of crisps in each bowl. Alternatively, or as well, you could use a blacked out bottle (some brands of soft drink use black bottles) and fill with a diluted flavoured juice drink for the boys to identify. You could use several bottles if time allows. An alternative is to blindfold the boys and feed them some food, for example, fruit pieces.

Smell

In a similar way to the taste test above, find things from home with distinctive smells for the boys to identify. Examples of these include coffee, ketchup, vinegar, different flavourings, for example vanilla, spices.

Crab Football

This is always an interesting game to play and requires little effort to set up.

Instructions:

- Divide the boys into teams (you may need more than two teams if you have a large junior section and play more than one game).
- The game is the same as normal football except the boys must move around and kick in the crab position. i.e. the boys assume a position with their feet flat on the floor and are arched over backwards with their hands touching the floor underneath them.
- Movement is a little harder and you should ensure no one's hands are trodden on!



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



15-20 minutes





No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



15 minutes

Visit by Visually Impaired Person and Guide Dog

This will be a good activity if it can be arranged as it will, hopefully, make the children curious. You may be able to arrange this through The Association for The Blind. The visitor could share their lifestyle with the boys, invite the boys to ask questions and to take an interest in the guide dog.