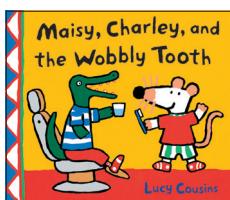


Maisy First Experiences Classroom Kit

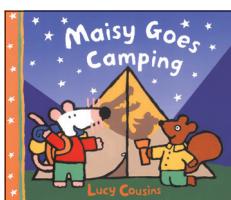
Candlewick is excited to celebrate twenty-five years of Maisy, every child's first friend. This kit contains simple and entertaining activities for preschool storytime, to be used in conjunction with Maisy First Experiences Books.



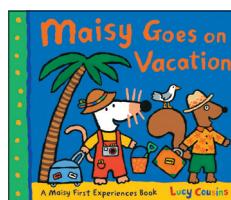
Follow Maisy and her friends in these delightful picture books that introduce readers to new experiences in a welcoming and straightforward way. Each book portrays Maisy in an adventure that reflects a situation preschoolers often encounter. The text is simple and fun, and the illustrations are bright and colorful. This kit, organized in nine themes, contains easy-to-do activities and reproducibles written with the preschool curriculum in mind and designed to foster early literacy.



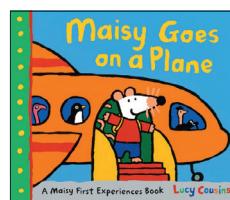
Maisy, Charley, and the Wobbly Tooth
PB: 978-0-7636-4369-0
Also available as an e-book



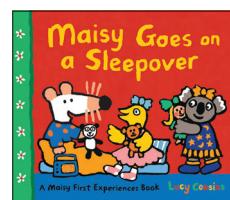
Maisy Goes Camping
PB: 978-0-7636-4368-3
Also available as an e-book



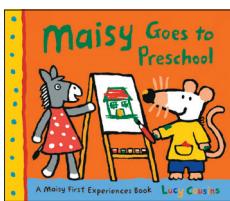
Maisy Goes on Vacation
HC: 978-0-7636-4752-0
PB: 978-0-7636-6039-0
Also available as an e-book



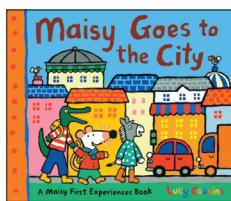
Maisy Goes on a Plane
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Also available as an e-book



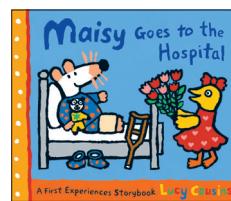
Maisy Goes on a Sleepover
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PB: 978-0-7636-8947-6



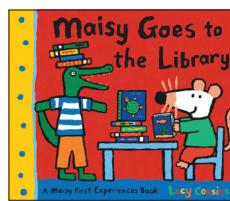
Maisy Goes to Preschool
PB: 978-0-7636-5086-5
Also available as an e-book



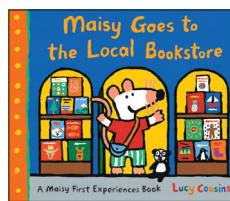
Maisy Goes to the City
PB: 978-0-7636-6834-1
Also available as an e-book



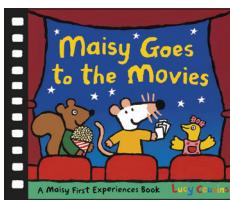
Maisy Goes to the Hospital
PB: 978-0-7636-4372-0



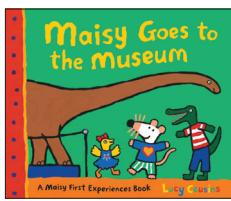
Maisy Goes to the Library
PB: 978-0-7636-4371-3
Also available as an e-book



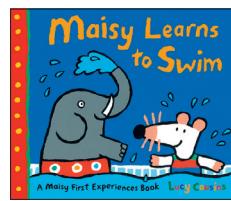
Maisy Goes to the Local Bookstore
HC: 978-0-7636-9255-1
Also available as an e-book



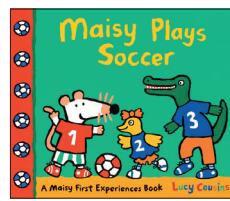
Maisy Goes to the Movies
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PB: 978-0-7636-7237-9
Also available as an e-book



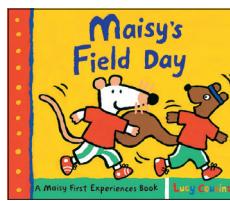
Maisy Goes to the Museum
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Maisy Learns to Swim
HC: 978-0-7636-6480-0
PB: 978-0-7636-7749-7
Also available as an e-book



Maisy Plays Soccer
HC: 978-0-7636-7228-7
PB: 978-0-7636-7238-6
Also available as an e-book



Maisy's Field Day
HC: 978-0-7636-8441-9
Also available as an e-book

For more Maisy, visit
www.maisyfunclub.com.



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COOPERATION AND TEAMWORK

Maisy books exemplify cooperation and teamwork among Maisy and her friends. These three books in particular work well for this subject.

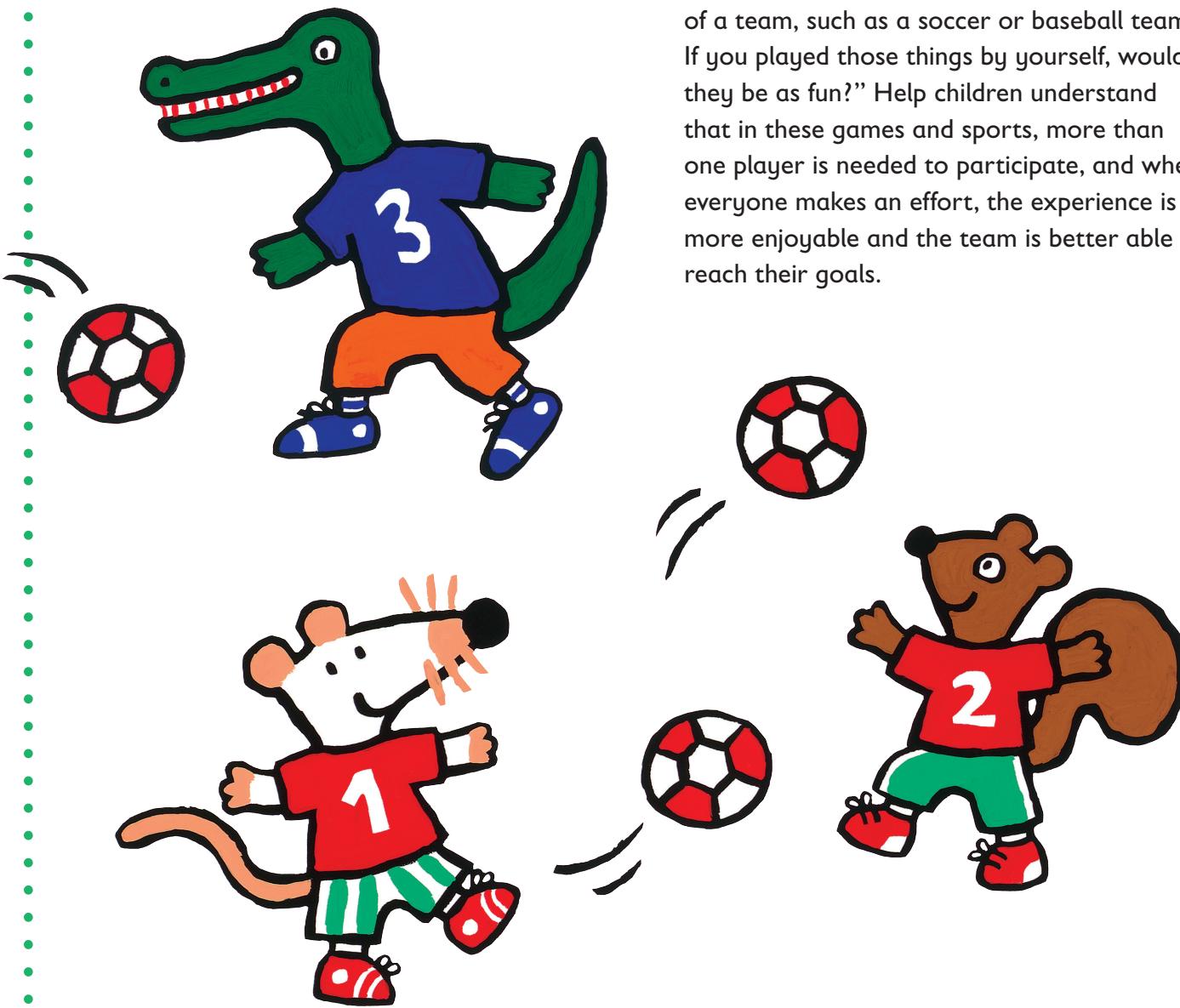
Maisy Goes Camping

Maisy Plays Soccer

Maisy's Field Day

DISCUSSION

- Ask, “Has there ever been a time when you needed help from friends to complete a task, such as rolling up your sleeping bag or putting up a tent? Why might it be easier to do things together?”
- Explain the importance of teamwork and how good it feels to be part of a group that works together. Then ask, “Have you ever been part of a team, such as a soccer or baseball team? If you played those things by yourself, would they be as fun?” Help children understand that in these games and sports, more than one player is needed to participate, and when everyone makes an effort, the experience is more enjoyable and the team is better able to reach their goals.



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Paper Chain

1. Give each child a strip of colored paper (use several different colors if possible).
2. Have the first child make a ring with the paper strip and help him or her either tape it or staple it in place.
3. Ask the first child to turn to the next child, who can attach his or her strip of paper by threading it through the first ring, forming a circle, and securing it with either tape or a staple.
4. Continue until every child has added a strip of paper, counting the rings with each addition.
5. When the chain is complete, explain why it was a team effort, how it looks more interesting as a whole than it did in pieces, how having many rings instead of one allows it to be used in different ways, and so on. Hang the chain in the classroom as a reminder of the class's cooperation and teamwork.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

Make a child-size fort or A-frame. This is a wonderful way to build cooperation and teamwork skills. Ask, "What kind of fort would Maisy and her friends build?" The children can be involved in finding sticks and branches for the fort or A-frame, carrying them to the site, holding the sticks together to balance them, and assisting in securing them so they can enjoy the finished structure.

If that is too large an undertaking, you could also build a fairy house—a miniature version of a fort or home for fairies and other small critters to enjoy. Because any kind of nature-based project can be tricky to construct, no matter how small, children will need to work together to build it. The idea is for them to find a variety of sticks and branches and balance them so they work together to stand tall . . . and stay standing!



FIVE SENSES

To explore the five senses, read these Maisy books, in which Maisy and her friends use all their senses in different situations.

Maisy Goes on Vacation

Maisy Goes to the City

Maisy Goes to the Museum

Maisy Learns to Swim



DISCUSSION

- Before reading, have the children close their eyes and keep them closed for one full minute. Invite them to pay attention to sounds and smells both inside and outside. When the minute is up, ask them to open their eyes and talk about all the things they heard or smelled. You can share as well. This serves as an introduction to the five senses.
- After reading *Maisy Goes to the City*, ask the children to close their eyes again. This time have them imagine what sounds they might hear on the street in a big city. Talk about how city sights and sounds may be different from what they heard the first time.



- After reading *Maisy Goes on Vacation*, ask, “Have you been to the beach? If so, can you remember the smell of the sea air or the sound of the seagulls? What does the sea air smell like? What sounds do seagulls make?” Include the sense of touch by asking what sand and water feel like on their feet. Give examples of descriptive words, such as rough, soft, scratchy, cool, ticklish, and so on. Then have them feel what is around them, like the rug they are sitting on, the clothes on their back, or the wall next to them. Ask, “What do those things feel like?” Integrate this hands-on approach into a discussion of the five senses of sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell.
- After reading *Maisy Learns to Swim*, ask the class, “Who has been swimming? What does the water feel like on your body? Is it soft, hard, ticklish, prickly, or bubbly? What sound does water make when you get in and move around?” Discuss the differences between taking a bath, swimming in a pool, and swimming in an ocean or lake.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Paper Maisy Hand

1. Have each child trace his or her hand on a heavy piece of paper, then cut it out. For younger children, an adult may need to assist, or you might provide a cut-out paper hand.
2. In the palm of the paper hand, each child can draw a picture of his or her favorite Maisy character or something that represents that character, such as Maisy's ears, Charley's teeth, or Tallulah's bow.
3. Ask the children to draw a picture that represents one of the five senses on each finger of the paper hand—an eye, a nose, a mouth, an ear, and a finger, symbolizing the senses of sight, smell, taste, hearing, and touch. Alternatively, you could provide stickers that illustrate each of the senses. Explain that the five fingers represent the five senses and that this paper Maisy hand will help them remember.
4. Finish the activity by attaching a craft stick to the back of each hand so the children can hold and wave their Maisy hands and give one another high fives.



FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS

DISCUSSION

Depending on the Maisy book(s) you select, choose among the following discussion topics, or develop your own.

- What does it feel like to lose a tooth? What will replace the tooth you lose? Will it hurt?
- Where do you sleep if you go on a sleepover? Do you take your own bed?
- How is your preschool the same as Maisy's? How is it different? What things do you do at school every day? What are some things you only do once in a while?
- What happens if you are sick or hurt and have to go to the hospital? What will it look like? Smell like? Sound like?
- What does a movie theater look like? Sound like? Smell like?
- Where are some places you can go swimming? How are they the same? How are they different? Do you like swimming in a pool or in the ocean better? Why?



CRAFT ACTIVITIES

“How I Feel” Plate

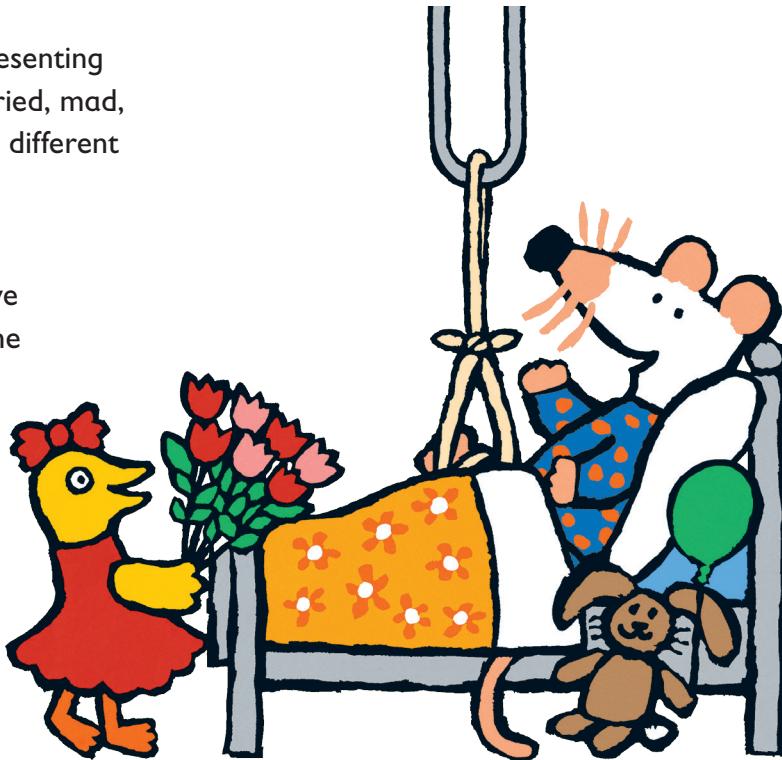
1. Give each child a plain white paper plate and crayons, markers, or paint. Have them draw or paint a happy face on one side of the plate and a sad face on the other.
2. As you call out examples of things that are likely to make them happy (petting a puppy, ice cream, a birthday party) or sad (scraping a knee, falling down, dropping ice cream on the floor), have the children hold the plates showing either a happy or a sad face, depending on how the experience makes them feel. Refer back to stories about Maisy and her friends as you play.

Feelings Book

1. Have the children make faces representing feelings—happy, sad, scared, worried, mad, and so on. Each child should pick a different feeling to represent.
2. Take close-up pictures of the faces they make. Print them out and have the children label each face with the corresponding feeling.
3. Bind the pictures together in a book and use it in the classroom. Children are sure to enjoy looking at a book of pictures showing themselves and their friends!

DRAMATIC PLAY

After reading *Maisy Goes to the Hospital*, set up a play area in your classroom where the children can take turns being the doctor to their stuffed animal friends. Set up a small bed or examining table, have old X-rays hanging on the wall or available for the children to look through, and provide bandages to help the animals feel better. A pretend doctor kit and dress-up doctor clothes add to the fun—children could even try looking like Doctor Duck.



NATURE AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Maisy and her friends love to be outside. After reading one of these books to open up a discussion about nature and the outdoors, simply go outside and play! Children are often the best guides when it comes to the question of what to do once they're outside.

Maisy Goes Camping

Maisy Goes on Vacation

Maisy's Field Day

DISCUSSION

Discuss the outdoors and prepare for your next outdoor play.

- What do you like to do outside?
- What can you see and do in the woods? At the playground? At the beach?
- What do you do when the weather is warm? When it's cold?
- What can we use to dig? (Children will likely mention shovels, but encourage them to name other objects as well, such as spoons, cups, gardening tools, seashells, and so on.)
- What can we use to collect things we find outside? (Children will likely mention buckets, but encourage them to name other objects as well, such as baskets, cups of various sizes, boxes, and so on.)

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Games

Set up different cooperative games for the children to try, such as a wheelbarrow race, a three-legged race, or a relay race, like in *Maisy's Field Day*. Depending on the ages of the children, consider a tug-of-war competition in which each side must work as a team.

Scavenger Hunt

On index cards, draw or copy pictures of things for the children to find outside (for example, rocks, leaves, twigs, flowers or petals, tree bark, and feathers). Give each child some kind of collection container or bag and one or more index cards. Then let them hunt for their object(s) in teams or individually. After a certain amount of time, invite them to bring their objects to a central collection area and spread out the various treasures for everyone to look at.





Water Painting

This is a great activity to do when the weather is warm. You will need paintbrushes of different sizes, buckets, and water. Give each child a brush and provide small buckets of water to be shared with a friend or two. Let the children “paint” what they find outside—the wall of the school, the play structure, trees, and more. Children will love to see their designs as they paint, then watch as they dry up and disappear. Ask the children, “What would Maisy and her friends paint?”

INDOOR ACTIVITY

Set up a campsite together in your classroom. Have the children help create a tent using blankets, sheets, or large pieces of fabric so they can see what is involved and understand how important it is to work as part of a team. Put out camping or hiking supplies and backpacks of various sizes and have the children practice packing the bags. Supplies might include a flashlight, hat, small sleeping bag, rope, simple first-aid kit, pretend snacks, and so on.



COLORS

Lucy Cousins's bold and beautiful art offers the perfect platform for teaching colors to preschool children. After reading any Maisy book, play a color game with the children or engage them in a simple color-related art project. There are countless possibilities—here are three to try.

GAMES

Colored Circles Game

Cut a 4" x 24" strip of white poster board for each child. Draw five large circles on each strip and color them (in sequence) red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. Place a color strip at each child's feet. Call out various directives: jump on yellow, right foot on blue, left hand on red, and so on. This game will get the children moving as they review colors as well as the concept of left and right.

Freeze Dance

This game encourages movement and helps reinforce color knowledge. Place large cut-out circles of various colors randomly all over the floor. Leave lots of room between circles so the children can move freely around them. Play music and let the children dance. Then stop the music and have each child freeze on a color. Ask, "Who is on a blue circle? A green one?" And so on. Alternatively, you could ask each child to tell you what color he or she is standing on. Before the music starts again, tell the children that the next time the music stops, they must land on a different color circle than before.



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Vegetable Prints

1. Gather a variety of fruits and vegetables and cut each in half. Pat them dry with paper towels.
2. Spread paint of different colors onto separate paper plates and place paper or solid-colored fabric on a flat surface.
3. Have the children dip a slice of fruit or vegetable into the paint and print patterns on the paper or fabric by pressing down the painted slices.
4. Put the paintings aside to dry.
5. Hang the paintings on the wall with signs labeling the colors the children used.

(This activity adapted from *Create with Maisy*.)

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Maisy loves to sing, dance, and move! Use any of these Maisy books to integrate music and/or movement into your curriculum. Play Freeze Dance again (see COLORS theme) and try these other ideas.

Maisy Goes to Preschool

Maisy Goes to the Museum

Maisy Learns to Swim

Maisy's Field Day



Start a Band!

Fill a box with assorted handheld, easy-to-use instruments, such as maracas, bells, small drums, egg shakers, and cymbals. Let the children each choose an instrument to play. First have them play all at once, maybe playing along to a song. Next, play a simple rhythm or pattern with your own instrument and have the children try to copy the music. Then let each child take a turn being the “band leader” and have everyone else repeat what they play.

“The More We Get Together”

After reading *Maisy Goes to Preschool* and *Maisy Goes to the Museum*, teach the children the chorus to the song “The More We Get Together.” Tell them that you are going to sing the Maisy version of the song and that they will sing the chorus. Have available any musical instruments that the children can play as well.

What does Maisy do at preschool?

At preschool? At preschool?

*Does she paint and read a story
and play with Charley?*

Chorus:

*'Cause her friends are my friends
and my friends are her friends.*

*The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.*

What does Maisy do at the museum?

The museum? The museum?

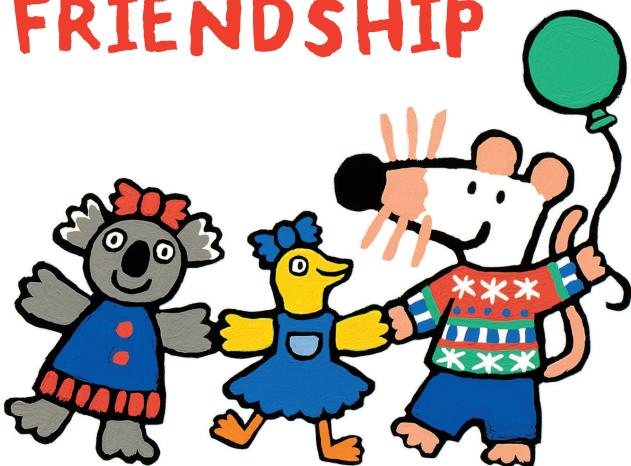
*She sees bones and bugs and rockets
and makes music, too.*

Chorus:

*'Cause her friends are my friends
and my friends are her friends.*

*The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.*

FRIENDSHIP



The theme of friendship is integral to all of the Maisy books, and you can use any of the Maisy First Experiences Books to explore friendship. After all, Maisy books are all about Maisy and her friends!

DISCUSSION

- Ask, "How do Maisy and her friends enjoy one another's company and like to have fun together?" Have the children explore the friendships in their own lives by asking them to think about what they like to do with their friends, such as go to the playground, have a tea party, or go swimming. Ask, "What are your favorite things to do with friends?"
- Ask, "What is a friend?" Answers might include someone to have fun with, to play with, to laugh with, to sing with, and to share with.
- Ask, "What makes someone a good friend?" Then have the children name some ways they can show how to be a good friend.
- Make a list of qualities that friends have. Some possibilities include helpful, caring, kind, and willing to share.
- Ask, "What things do you like to do by yourself?"

Friendship Garden

Help the children plant seeds in a container garden to create a community friendship garden. Let them take turns watering the plants every day, and as a class talk about the changes you see. Invite them to share what they have grown and remind them that it is the product of friends working together.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Friendship Bracelets

- Have each child make a bracelet for a friend using beads and stretchy beading string.
- Once the bracelets are completed, instruct the children to place them in a bag.
- One by one, pull a bracelet out of the bag and hand it to a child. It will be a surprise to see who gets which bracelet, and the idea is that it doesn't matter, as all the children are friends. When everyone makes a bracelet, everyone gets one to take home!

MATCHING GAME

Take a picture of each child, print out two copies, and write his or her name on both. Laminate the photos so they can withstand lots of little hands touching them. Use the pictures to create a matching or memory game in the classroom. This activity also helps children to learn their peers' names as well as their faces.

READING AND BOOKS

It is never too early to foster a love of reading and books in children. All of the Maisy First Experiences Books encourage children to read by keeping the text simple and the pictures vivid, colorful, and fun. These two Maisy titles explore the world of books and show children that there is a story out there for everyone.

Maisy Goes to the Library

Maisy Goes to the Local Bookstore

CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Maisy Bookmark

1. Cut construction paper or card stock to the desired size for each bookmark and give one to each child.
2. Have the children draw and color a picture of their favorite Maisy character. (You may need to outline a character for younger children.) Invite them to write their names and add stickers as desired.
3. Punch a hole near the top of each bookmark, or if laminating, laminate and then punch a hole.
4. Ask the children to pick a ribbon, string it through the top, and secure it with a knot.

Make a Book

1. Even the youngest preschoolers can make a book of their own. On a piece of white paper, draw a large square or rectangle on the top half of the page and two to three lines underneath, then make copies to distribute.
2. Ask the children to think about a story they want to share. Invite them to tell the story on the lines at the bottom of the page and to draw a simple picture related to the story inside the box. (Younger children will need help writing the words, while older preschoolers may be able to write some simple words on their own.) Continue to add pages as each child desires, perhaps over several days or weeks.
3. When the story is complete, use brightly colored construction paper for front and back covers and bind the book along the left edge with staples, or punch holes along the left edge of each page and tie them together with yarn or ribbon.
4. Ask the children to think of a name for their story. Invite them to draw on their book's cover and include their story's title and their own name as author.



TRIPS AND TRAVEL

Maisy loves adventure! Whether she's going to the museum in her town, to a sleepover at a friend's house, on a visit to the beach, or on a plane trip across the country, the energetic mouse is always exploring. Day trips, overnight trips, and long vacations are all part of the fun. Some adventures happen close to home, and some take place far away.

Maisy Goes on a Plane

Maisy Goes on a Sleepover

Maisy Goes on Vacation

Maisy Goes to the Museum

DISCUSSION

Depending on the Maisy book(s) you select, choose among the following discussion topics, or develop your own.

- Have you ever flown on an airplane? What was it like on the inside? What did it sound like? What was the airport like? What did you do while you waited for your flight to leave?
- What do you do during school vacation? Do you go away? Do you visit family? Do you visit new places?
- What does it mean to sleep over at someone else's house? What are some of the things you would want to take with you? What would you do there?
- What is a museum? Have you been to one? Are there different kinds of museums? What might you see and do there?



CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Binoculars

1. Gather two toilet paper tubes per child, or cut one paper towel tube per child in half. Staple or tape two tubes together, side by side, to create binoculars for the children to look through.
2. Punch a hole on each side of one end and let children attach string or ribbon so the binoculars can hang comfortably around their necks.
3. Have children decorate their binoculars with markers, stickers, or paint. Then they're ready for an adventure!

Paper Bag Backpack

1. Cut the top off of a large brown paper grocery bag so the remaining bag is short enough to fit against a child's back comfortably.
2. Using the cutoff pieces or handles of the bag, make straps long enough to fit over a child's shoulders. Secure the straps on the back of the pack with tape or staples.
3. Have the children decorate their backpacks with pictures of a favorite Maisy character and any other designs they might imagine.

Baggage Tag

1. On one side of a small blank index card or rectangle of heavy stock (approximately 3" x 5"), copy or trace pictures of favorite Maisy characters. On the other side of the card, draw two or three lines. Reproduce enough cards for all the children.
2. Have the children write or trace their names and addresses or hometowns, then color their tags.
3. Help them punch a hole in their tags and tie them with a ribbon, yarn, or string long enough to allow them to attach it to a bag.

GAME

Pack a bag with items that are clues to a destination. For example, for a beach vacation there might be sunglasses, a bathing suit, a sand shovel, and flip-flops; for someplace cold there could be a winter hat, gloves, and boots. Invite children to guess where you're going based on what they find in the bag. Allow them to pick an item from the bag and place it where everyone can see it. As children pick each item, see if they can figure out where you might be going.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Pack a Bag

Bring into the classroom a suitcase or duffel bag that you have pre-filled with clothing and other items that one might take on a trip. Let the children practice packing and unpacking the bag.

Airport Obstacle Course

To help children understand what they may need to do when passing through an airport security checkpoint, set up a fun obstacle course that mimics some of the things they might see or be asked to do when passing through security.

First, have the children put on their coats or an extra layer or hat and give them each an airplane ticket to hold. Tell them they need the ticket to pass through the obstacle course. Have some carry-on bags for them to choose from as well—backpacks or small rolling suitcases. Explain that when it is his or her turn, each child will bring the ticket and a carry-on bag to the security officer (a teacher), who will take the ticket.

Next, they are to fill a large basket with their coat or hat and carry-on bag and slide the basket down the floor on a pretend conveyor belt. After that, they should take their shoes off and walk slowly through a doorway as if it were a security gate. If possible, a teacher can be waiting on the other side, asking them to raise their hands up high and get really tall. For a fun diversion after that, children could crawl under a bench or chair.

At the end of the obstacle course, give the children back their shoes, bag, and ticket and have them take a seat in the “waiting area.” Alternatively, they could “board the plane,” with the help of chairs set up in rows of two or three, marked with seat numbers. Bon voyage!

This kit was written by Karen Cardillo and Hedi Charde, who have each spent many years teaching preschool.

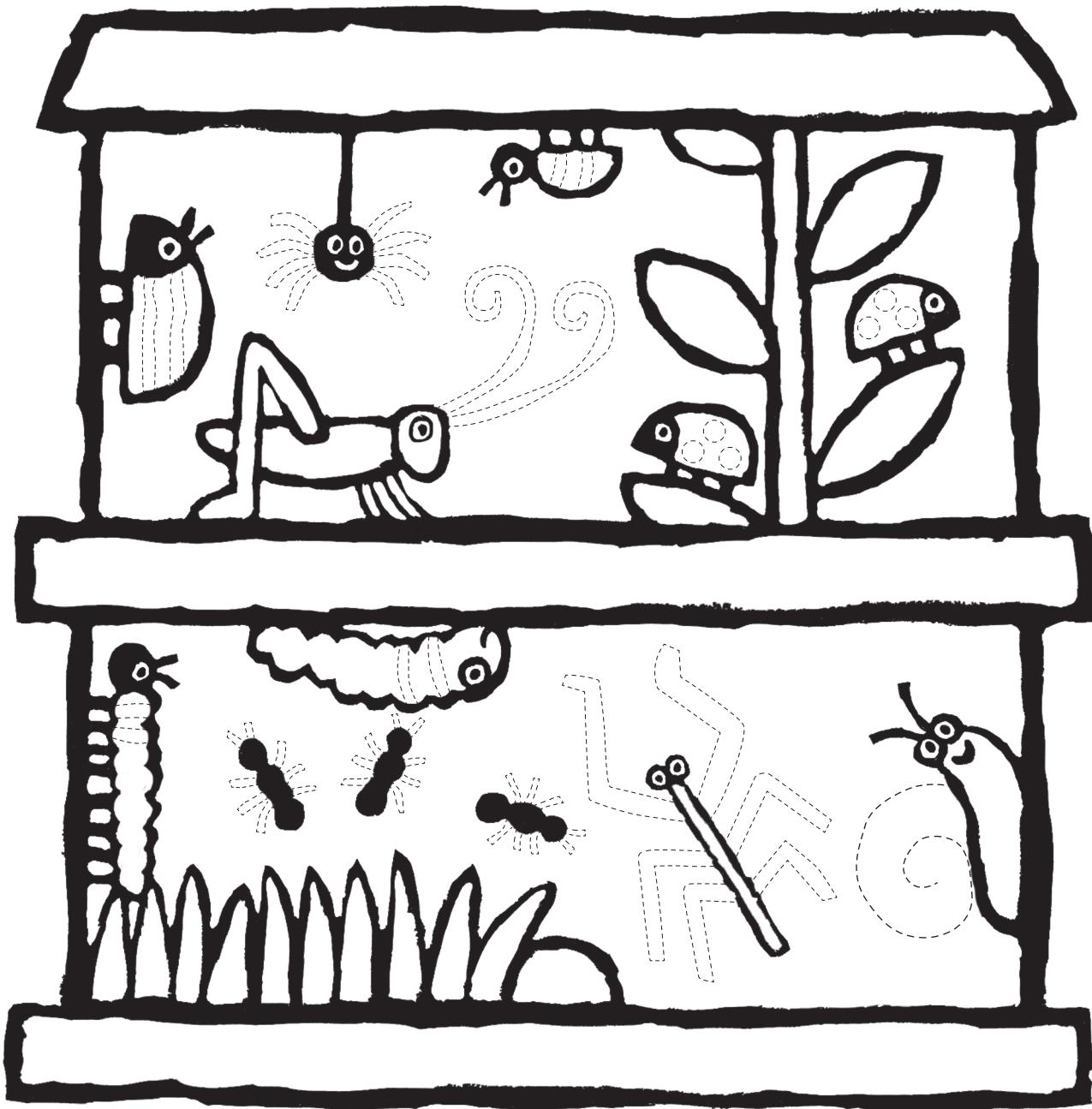
MAISY MAKES MUSIC

Color each instrument a different color,
then color Maisy and her friends.



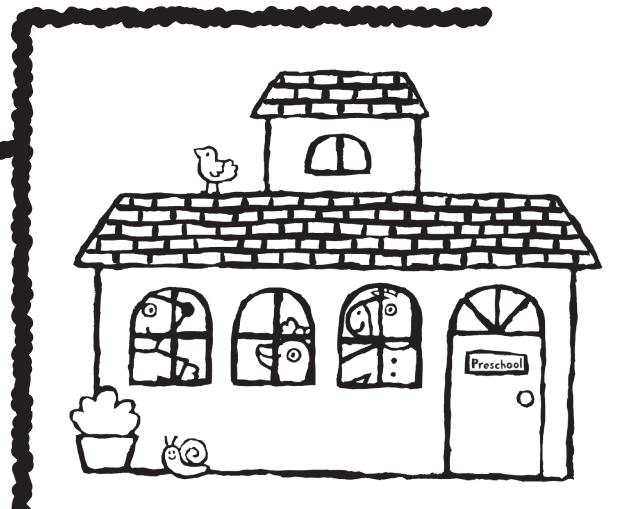
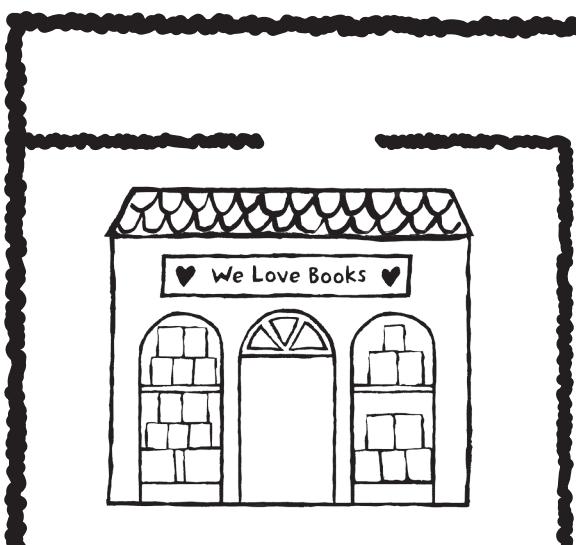
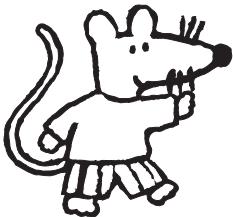
FINISH THE BUGS

Finish this picture of the bugs that Maisy and her friends saw at the museum. Trace the parts that are missing on each bug to complete it, then color in the bugs.



MAZE

Draw a path to lead Maisy through her town,
then color in each place she passed.



PACK YOUR SUITCASE!

What will you take on your vacation to the beach? Draw a line from each item that you wish to take to the suitcase. Draw an X through the items you will not be taking. Then color or draw on the suitcase to make it yours.



Dot-to-Dot

Can you guess how Maisy will be getting to her next adventure?

Follow the letters to see how she will get there.

When you are done, draw yourself and some friends who might be meeting her.

