

# TOBY says, "Different is Great!"



These sensory activities are hands-on ways for children in various developmental stages to use their five senses to explore their environment. Children will learn that it is okay if they don't like some things, such as loud noises or smelly smells. Each activity is aligned with Kentucky Early Childhood Standards and can be modified to meet your state's early childhood standards.

## **Activity #1: "It's Okay to Ask for a Break!"** **Large Group Activity**

During this activity, children will have opportunities to explore the five senses while reading, Toby. The teacher will explain to the children that it is okay to ask for a "break" if they are doing something that may be scary to them. He or she will then show the group the *Toby "Break" Card* and explain how the *Toby "Break" Card* works. Additionally, children will talk about things they like and dislike and when they may need to take a "break" away from something, such as loud noises.

**Materials:** The *Toby* book, *Question Time with Toby*, and the *Toby "Break" Card*. Other materials may be added upon discretion of the teacher.

**Directions:** During a large group activity, read *Toby* to the children and pass out the *Toby "Break" Cards*. After reading the book, using the *Question Time with Toby*, discuss how Toby was scared of many things in the book and when he was scared (add in a movement that resembles scared) he asked for a "break" (hold up the *Toby "Break" Card*). Next, turn to the first thing in the book that Toby didn't like, which was meat. Ask the children what he did when he didn't want to eat the meat and model holding up the *Toby "Break" Card*. Continue this with raindrops, loud rushing river water, and the smelly volcano throughout the book. After each time Toby was scared, tell children to hold up the *Toby "Break" Card*, and ask them if that would scare them. If they answer yes, tell them that it is okay to ask for a break from something that might scare them.

**Standard:** Language and Literacy Standard 1: Demonstrates skills and strategies needed for receptive communication. (I can look and listen, I can follow simple directions, and I can listen and share what I learn).

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## Activity #2: "Is it the Same or Different: Both are Terrific!" Small Group Activity

During this activity, children will have the opportunity to talk about things Toby liked and disliked while playing the *Toby Claw Matching Game*.

**Materials:** The *Toby* book and *Toby Claws*.

**Directions:** During a small group activity, read *Toby* to the children and discuss how Toby didn't like certain things and how some things scared him. Next, lay out the *Toby Claws* that represent things Toby didn't like or scared him, while explaining each picture claw (i.e., meat, raindrop, river, and volcano) and how each claw pertained to Toby. Next, flip each *Toby Claw* over, explain how two of the same claws make a match and two different claws do not make a match. While playing the game, ask the children things they may not like or scare them. Lastly, discuss that it is okay to not like the same things or be scared of different things, such as loud noises. Matter of fact, being different is Terrific!

**Standard:** Math Standard 1: Demonstrates mathematical concepts and skills during play and other activities. (I can match).

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## Activity #3: "Let's Explore Together!" One-to-One Activity

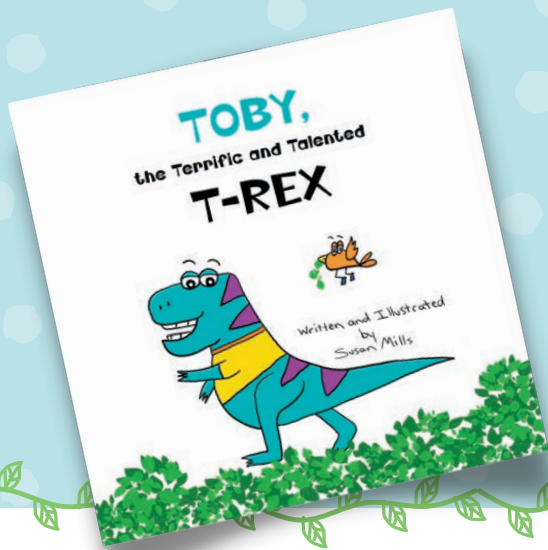
During this activity children will have opportunities to explore the five senses. Children will talk about things they like and dislike and can search for items using their five senses (i.e., vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch). Children will use a *Toby Magnifying Glass* to search for items within the classroom.

**Materials:** The *Toby* book, the *Toby Magnifying Glass*, the *Toby Five Senses Poster*, and items pertaining to the five senses (e.g., gummy worm, a water dropper, gushing water audio clip, a pack of matches).

**Directions:** During one-to-one instruction, read *Toby*. After reading, discuss how Toby didn't like some things and how some scared him. Introduce the five senses to the child, using the things Toby didn't like or scared him, while locating them within the book. Explain how the meat tasted slimy and have the child feel and taste a slimy gummy worm. Ask the child if he or she liked it or not? Next, locate the raindrops in the book, and while using a water dropper, drop a cold water drop on the child's hand and ask if he or she liked the cold water. Locate the gushing river in the book and play an audio clip of gushing water. Ask the child if he or she liked the loud noise. Lastly, locate the volcano in the book and light a match and blow it out. Ask the child if he or she liked the smell. Next, show the child the *Toby Five Senses Poster* and the *Toby Magnifying Glass*. Explain how both of you are going to use the *Toby Magnifying Glass* to explore the classroom to find different items that match Toby's five senses on the poster and then share what you found.

**Standard:** Science Standard 1: Demonstrates a scientific way of thinking and working (with wonder and curiosity). (I can explore the world around me, I can use tools to explore, and I can share what I learned).

**For accompanying enrichment activities, please visit [RainbowSparrowBooks.com](http://RainbowSparrowBooks.com).**



# QUESTION TIME WITH TOBY

Whether you are a parent, educator, or therapy provider, we know that conversations with our children are important. Questions develop critical and creative thinking, foster emotional growth, and encourage empathy.

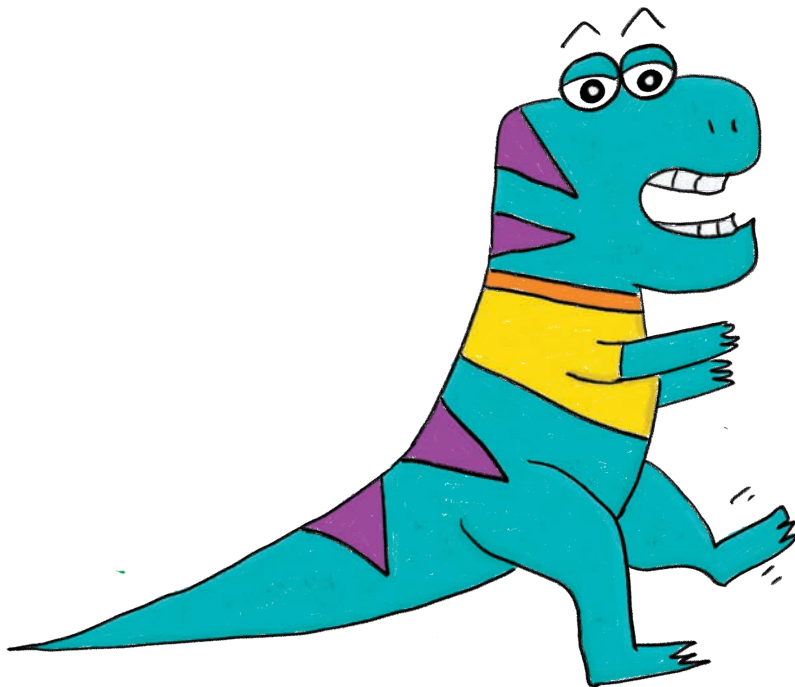
Let children know they are in a judgment-free zone, and there are no wrong answers! Pause when they are answering. Listen to what they have to say, and answer any questions they may have for you.

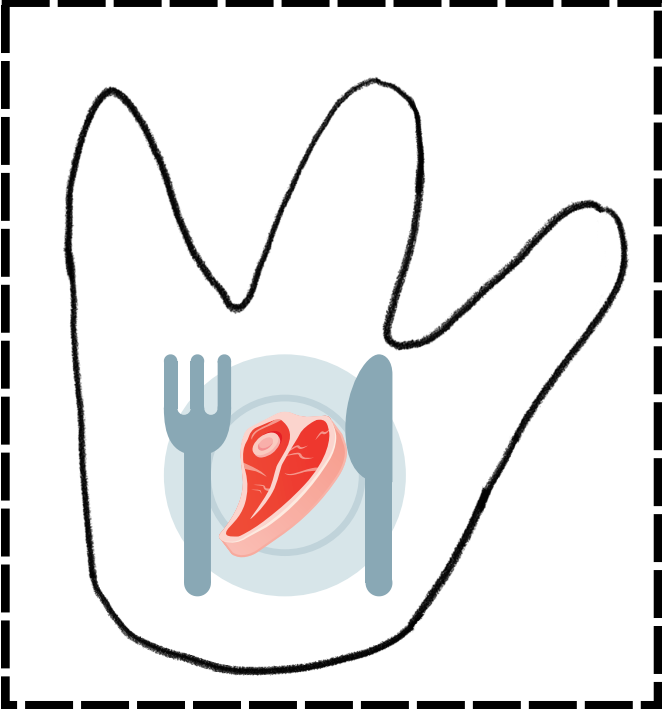
Maybe you discover your child has a fear you didn't know about or that they have a bias you need to address (later). This is a special moment to share anything, and let them know they can talk to you. Don't forget to have fun!

- Who are the people that have calmed you when you were scared?
- What are you afraid of?
- Where are there. smells or sounds that you don't like?
- When have you experienced something that made you feel scared or uncomfortable?
- Why are we different?
- How do you help someone that may be afraid?

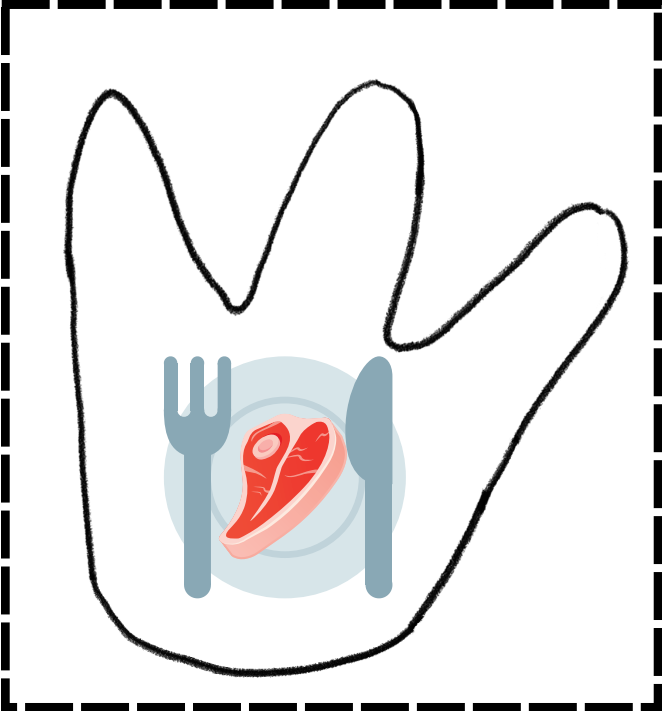
# Toby "Break" Card

**BREAK**



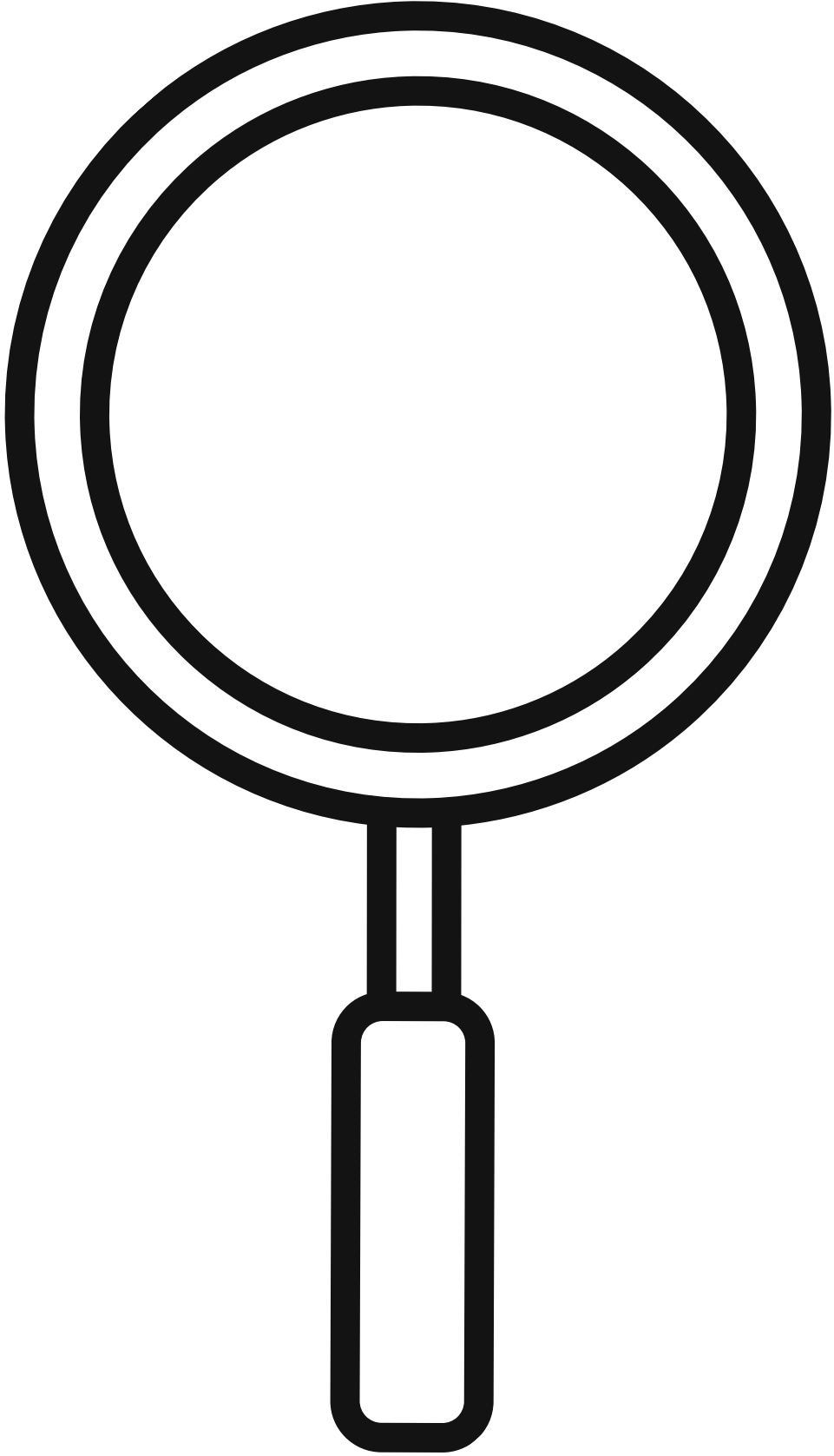


# Toby Claws



# Toby Claws

# Toby Magnifying Glass

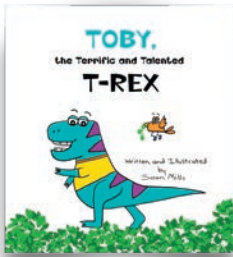




# MY 5 SENSES



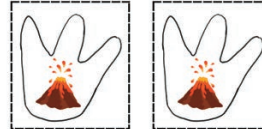
# Toby: Activity Sequence Cards for Instruction



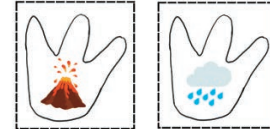
READ



FLIP OVER



MATCH



NO MATCH



SLIMY



COLD



LOUD



SMELLY

# Toby: Activity Sequence Cards for Instruction

