

SOLVE THE MYSTERY

ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

USE THE FOCUS SUCCESS SKILL TO BE A DETECTIVE.

TIME

25–35 minutes

STRUCTURE

Whole group, pairs, or individual

MATERIALS

- ✓ Clues Handout (1 Printout per child or group, depending on age)
- ✓ Answer Key for Clues (1 Printout for educator)
- ✓ Envelopes (Optional)
- ✓ Pencil/Pen (Optional)

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME

Note: This activity can be modified for younger children or be made more challenging. For younger children, provide groups with two to three clues at a time instead of one.

- ✓ Review the ASL sign for **focus**: <https://youtu.be/2rhcl54OACs>
- ✓ Print out the **Clues** Handout. The **Clues** Handout is organized horizontally (from left to right) by level of difficulty. The first clue is the hardest (Clue #1), while the last clue is the easiest (Clue #3). Cut out each clue card and make three piles according to their groups: WHO, WHAT, and WHERE. Then, order each group of cards by number, with 1 being the first card facing up, 2 being second, and 3 being third.
- ✓ (Optional) You may use envelopes to prevent children from accidentally looking at all the clues at once on their first try. Start by numbering three envelopes (1, 2, and 3). Then place all the clues with number 1 in the first envelope, number 2 clues in the second envelope, and number 3 clues in the third envelope.
- ✓ Print out **Answer Key for Clues** for the educator to use as a reference.

CAREER CLUSTER

Law and Safety

SUCCESS SKILL CONNECTION

Focus

*Each time you say **focus** in this activity, please do the following as a corresponding ASL sign: Bring both hands up to your face, with palms facing each other. Keep your hands flat, fingers pointing upward. Move your hands outward, still facing each other, towards your shoulders. Then, bring hands forward, with fingertips pointing away from you, gradually moving them closer together—but without touching.

ASL Video Link: <https://youtu.be/2rhcl54OACs>

5 MIN: INTRODUCTION (whole group)

1. **Say**, “Do you like solving mysteries? A detective is someone who uses clues and information to solve a problem, mystery, or crime. Detectives work individually or together in a team. They brainstorm ideas about what clues might be telling them for the mystery they are trying to solve. To do this, they ask many questions



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about clues. Detectives use the **Focus Success Skill** to pay close attention to the clues they find. With the clues they find, they are able to put the information together to solve a problem or mystery. This is similar to solving a puzzle: When you **focus** on all the right puzzle pieces, you are able to put the pieces together and see the whole picture. Today, we will get a chance to be detectives by working in a team, following clues, and solving the mystery!"

20 MIN: ROLE PLAY (whole group, pairs, or individual)

- Split the large group into groups of three: Group WHO, Group WHAT, and Group WHERE.

Say, "Fernando and his family just moved into a new house in a new country. One of his parents has a new job! Since they are new to the neighborhood, people from the Embassy Neighborhood Welcoming Committee stopped by to visit and welcome them. People from the embassy help people with any problems that come up, like replacing lost passports or finding medical help in a new country.

The Neighborhood Welcoming Committee was helping Fernando and his family unpack, so there were boxes everywhere. They all decided to take a break and play soccer outside. Suddenly, they heard a loud noise come from inside. They have no idea what it could have been! The Neighborhood Committee knows some people who could help: detectives! Each of us will act as a detective. Let's see if we can solve the mystery and figure out what happened before they check it out. We will need to find out WHO was involved, WHAT item made the noise, and WHERE it happened. The clues we receive will help us solve the mystery!"

- Explain to children that each group will be looking at one clue at a time. Each group will have a different clue from the following categories: WHO, WHAT, or WHERE.
- Say**, "As detectives, it will be your job to work with your group to look at the clues to solve your group's mystery. You will use the **Focus Success Skill** to pay close attention to the clues you get, even when other groups have different clues."
- Pass out Clue #1 to each of the groups. Give each group a minute or two to look at the clue, name what it is, and share their ideas within their group about what the mystery could be. Walk around the room to listen in and provide additional support as needed.
 - Prompts:
 - What is that a picture of?
 - What do you do with it?
 - Who uses it?
- As children are discussing their clue, they may get distracted by the clues other groups have. This is an opportunity to remind them to **focus** on the clue they have. Detectives often see and hear other information and clues that they don't need at the moment, and they must **focus** on what is in front of them.
- Repeat step 6 with the other two clues.
- Once all three clues have been passed out, ask each group to make a final decision about what they think the mystery is. Have someone from each group share out loud.

Note: It's possible that children have a different answer than what the original item was. This is okay and can be a great time for discussing how clues can lead you in a different direction or if they lost **focus** on certain details while they were trying to solve it. Provide the final answer if children had a difficult time figuring it out.

- After all groups have shared, ask children what they think happened with the mysteries each group solved. Have children share their ideas out loud.

Say, "Detectives **focus** on the information and clues they find to come up with answers to problems and mysteries. Based on the clues you have, what do you think Fernando and his family heard?"

- Say**, "We were able to figure out the mystery of WHO, WHAT, and WHERE! This is what happened when the family went inside to check it out: Their cat spilled a glass of strawberry milk on the kitchen table after seeing



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her ball of yarn. But it's okay! Fernando and his family will clean up the strawberry milk that spilled. Next time, they will remember not to put the cat's toys on the kitchen table."

5 MIN: REFLECTION (whole group)

11. Have a brief discussion with children about the activity.

Say,

- "What Success Skill did you use today?"
- "Why is it important for a detective to **focus**?"
- "It's important to **focus** in a lot of careers. What is another career that also uses **focus**?"

SUCCESS SKILLS

Use these words when talking with children. Listen for children to use these words.

Success Skill	Definition
Focus	Pay attention to something, even when distractions happen around you.
Organize	Keep track of different information and belongings and put them in an order that makes sense to you.
Think Differently	Try new things and find creative ways to solve a problem. Learn from your mistakes and make changes.
Remember	Hold new information in your mind to use when you need it.
Feel	Check and show your emotions.



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ANSWER KEY FOR CLUES

Groups	Clue #1	Clue #2	Clue #3	Final Answer
WHO	Fish in a fishbowl	Ball of yarn	Paw print	Cat
WHAT	Strawberry	Milk Carton	Drinking glass	A drinking glass with strawberry milk
WHERE	Window	Soap with suds	Refrigerator	Kitchen

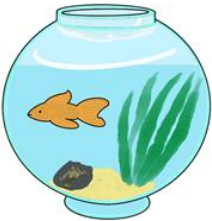
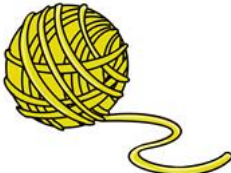

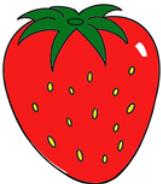


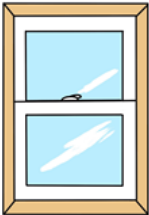

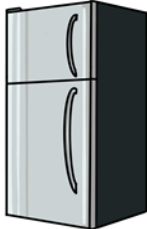


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CLUES

HARDEST CLUES  EASIEST CLUES

WHO  Clue #1	WHO  Clue #2	WHO  Clue #3
WHAT  Clue #1	WHAT  Clue #2	WHAT  Clue #3
WHERE  Clue #1	WHERE  Clue #2	WHERE  Clue #3



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