



SOLVE THE MYSTERY

ROLE-PLAY



Use the **Focus** Success Skill to investigate clues.



Career Cluster

Government



Success Skill

Focus



Estimated Activity Time

35 mins



Group Size

Individuals, pairs, or group

Materials

- **Answer Key for Clues** (1 printout for educator)
- **Clues Cards** (cutout and sorted)
- Envelopes or paper clips

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.

- Print materials.
- Cut out the **Clue Cards**. Sort them into Who, What, and Where piles with clue #1 on top, clue #2 in the middle, and clue #3 on the bottom.
- Use envelopes or paperclips to keep the sorted clues together and in order for handing out later.

Focus Definition

Pay attention to something, even when distractions happen around you.

5 MIN: INTRODUCTION

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 about the mystery they are trying to solve. To do this, they ask many questions about clues. Detectives use the **Focus** Success Skill to pay close attention to the clues they find. When they **Focus**, they are able to put together the information in the clues to solve the 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

2. Split the large group into three groups: Group Who, Group What, and Group Where.

Say, *"Fernando and his family are moving into a new house. Since they are new to the neighborhood, people from the neighborhood's Welcoming Committee stop by to visit and welcome them."*

"The Welcoming Committee is helping Fernando and his family unpack, so there are boxes everywhere. They all decide to take a break and play soccer outside. Suddenly, they hear a loud noise come from inside. CRASH! They have no idea what caused the noise! The Welcoming Committee knows who can help: Detectives!"

"In this activity, we will act as Detectives. Let's see if we can solve the mystery and figure out what happened. 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!"

3. Explain to children that each group will look at clues in one category: either who, what, or where. They will receive three clues, but will look at them one at a time.
4. **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."*
5. Pass out Clue #1 to each group. Give them 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 and listen in. If needed, provide additional support.

Ask:

- *"What is that a picture of?"*
- *"What do you do with it?"*
- *"Who uses it?"*

Note: 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.

6. Repeat step 5 with the other two clues.
7. Once all three clues have been passed out, ask each group to make a final decision about what they think their part of 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 to discuss 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.

8. After all groups have shared, ask children how they think they can put together the *who*, *what*, and *where* clues to solve the mystery.

*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?"*

9. *Say, "We were able to figure out the mystery of who, what, and where! This is what they discovered when everyone went inside to check it out: The cat spilled a glass of strawberry milk on the kitchen table after seeing 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

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

Ask:

- *"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 the **Focus** Success Skill?"*



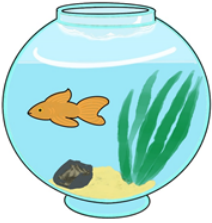
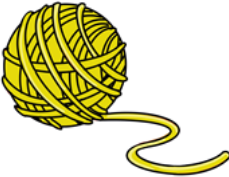

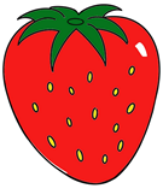


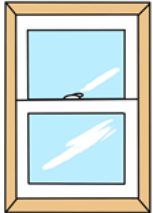

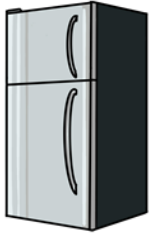
ANSWER KEY FOR CLUES

Group	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 glass with strawberry milk
WHERE	Window	Soap with suds	Refrigerator	Kitchen

CLUE CARDS

HARDEST CLUES

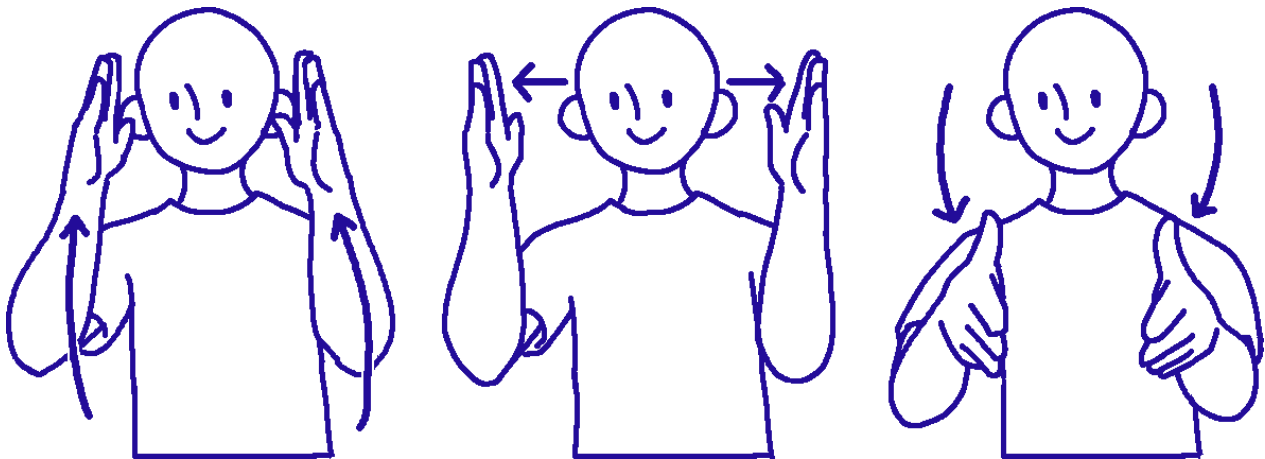
EASIEST CLUES

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
					

FOCUS ASL SIGN



To help children learn the Success Skill, use the ASL sign each time you say “Focus.”



1. Bring both hands up to your face with the palms facing each other. Keep your hands flat with the fingers pointed upward.
2. Move your hands outward, still facing each other, toward your shoulders.
3. Then bring your hands forward, with the fingertips pointing away from you, gradually moving them closer together but not touching.