

M is for mouse

With mice every day, learning *M* is play!

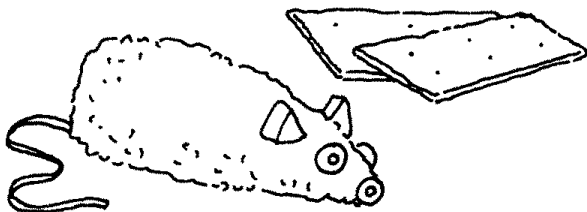
"Once There Was A Little Mouse"

Encourage youngsters to have fun with the movements that accompany this poem.

Once there was a little mouse,
(Show little with thumb and pointer finger.)
 Who lived inside a little house.
(Join fingertips to form a slanted roof.)
 He had a twitchy little nose. *(Twitch nose.)*
 He had some furry little toes. *(Wiggle toes.)*
 He had some whiskers, long and thin.
(Pretend to stroke whiskers.)
 He had a funny little grin. *(Smile.)*
 He had a great big appetite. *(Rub tummy.)*
 He ate up all the cheese in sight!
(Pretend to gobble food.)

A Cheesy Mouse Treat

Sculpt your favorite cheese ball recipe into a mouse shape and create a yummy snack. Prepare the cheese ball ingredients as your recipe directs. Sculpt these ingredients into a rounded, wedge-shaped mouse and carefully roll it in finely chopped nuts. Cut two ears from cheese and press them into the sides of the mouse's head area. Slice a pimento-filled green olive to make two eyes. Press a small black olive into the front of the mouse for a nose. Add a strand of cooked spaghetti to the opposite end for a tail. Serve this cheesy mouse with an assortment of your favorite crackers.



"Where Is Mousekin?"

Sing this song to the tune of "Frère Jacques."

Where is Mousekin? Where is Mousekin?
 Here I am! Here I am!
 Can you twirl your tail, Sir?
 Very well, I thank you!
 Run away; run away.

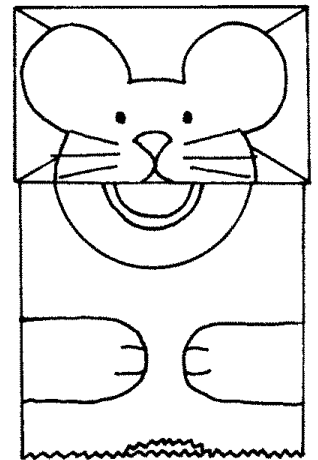
Repeat the song. Replace the action in line three with a new action each time you sing the verse. Use "twitch your nose," "show your teeth," "wave your ears," or "eat some cheese."

Mouse Booklet Page

Use the *M* booklet page on page 90 as directed for previous letters. Have each of your youngsters think of something for the mouse to munch; then have him draw a picture of it atop the mouse's extended paw. Write each child's dictation in the space provided to describe the mouse's munchie!

Mouse Bag Puppet

Reproduce the mouse face and paw patterns on page 91 on white construction paper. Let each child color her pattern pieces, adding eyes and whiskers to the upper portion of the mouse's head. Provide each child with a small, folded paper lunch bag. Cut out the upper portion of the head and glue it to the bag flap, aligning the straight edges. Cut out the lower portion of the head and glue it beneath the flap of the bag. Cut out the paws and glue them to the bag.



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