

# MYSTERY VEGETABLE OR FRUIT

Sometimes it can be a challenge to motivate children to try new foods.

Making it fun and exciting can make all the difference. Try out this fun activity with the children the next time you want to introduce a new fruit or vegetable.

guess again!

**PREPARATION TIME:** 10 min.

**ACTIVITY TIME:** 20 min.

## Ingredients:

- 6 whole fresh vegetables or fruits
- 3 for the mystery bag
- 3 (of the same) to be prepared and served for taste testing

## Supplies:

- 3 paper lunch bags
- Cutting board or sleeve
- Knife
- Utensils
- Bowls or plates
- Napkins
- Pictures of the vegetables or fruit



## Preparation Prior to Class:

1. Choose the vegetables or fruits that will be in the mystery bags and set aside the additional vegetables or fruits for serving later.
2. Wash, peel (if necessary), and cut each additional mystery vegetable or fruit into enough bite-sized pieces for each child to have 1 to 2 pieces. Place each type of prepared vegetable or fruit in a serving bowl or plate. Refrigerate until the end of class when the mystery vegetables or fruits have been revealed.
3. Place one uncut fresh vegetable or fruit into each paper lunch bag.
4. Set up teaching area to display each picture of the mystery vegetables or fruits where all of the children can see them.

## With the Children:

1. Ask the children to wash their hands.
2. Show the children the pictures of the vegetables or fruits, and explain that there is one of them in each mystery bag.
3. Explain that they will feel the vegetable or fruit in the bag without looking at it and try to match it to one of the pictures.
4. Take the first mystery bag around to the children, and let each child reach in and touch the vegetable or fruit inside. Ask them to look away when they reach in so they do not see the vegetable or fruit. Ask them to describe how the vegetable or fruit feels (smooth, rough, hard, soft, etc.). *continued*

5. Then, ask the children to match the vegetable or fruit they felt with one of the pictures.
6. Take the vegetable or fruit out and show them if they guessed correctly or not.
7. Repeat steps 3 to 5 for each of the mystery bags.
8. Then, cut the mystery vegetable or fruit, and discuss how the vegetable or fruit looks on the inside compared to the outside.
9. Bring out the bowls of bite-sized samples, and let the children choose which vegetables or fruits they would like to try. Allow each child to spoon desired vegetables or fruits into their bowls or plates.

**IMPORTANT:** Never force a child to either take or taste a fruit or vegetable if they don't want to. Encourage them to do what they are willing – look, smell, touch, and/or taste.

10. Give each child a utensil and napkin, and encourage them to taste their vegetables or fruits.
11. Ask them to describe how it tastes, tell you whether they like the taste, and if they would eat the vegetable or fruit at home.

**That's it! A simple, yet fun and engaging activity to get the children to try more vegetables or fruits!**

try new things!

