



HLF Rebuilding Bodies and Souls

Feely Bags activity

Suitable for: 6-8 years

Time need for set up and activity: 5-10 mins: Place all objects in bag. Activity lasts approx. 15 minutes.
Suitable for a group of between 2 and 6 children with 1 adult.

Context needed for the activity:

- What airmen are
- A basic understanding of who McIndoe is
- That we see using our eyes and no other senses can be used to see

Activity Objectives:

- To recognise the importance of sight
- To consider what it might be like if your eyes are damaged

Suggested Learning Objectives:

- To be able to empathise
- To understand the lives of people that used to live in East Grinstead

National Curriculum Links:

- **History:** significant historical events, people and places in their own locality
- **History:** the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements
- **History:** Understand historical concepts such as cause and consequence, similarities and differences and asking historically valid questions
- **History:** Gaining Historical perspective (including local and national history and understanding types of history, i.e. military)
- **English:** Spoken language (including using descriptions, being involved in discussion, listening to peers and adults, participating in conversations, asking questions)
- **English:** Using discussion
- **English:** Competence in speaking and listening

Materials and equipment:

- Drawstring bags
- A range of objects of all shapes and sizes
- Some objects the same size and shape but different colours (eg marbles in different colours/patterns)
- Coins (can they tell how much each coin is worth without seeing them)

- Cutlery and plastic plates (imagine eating if you couldn't see)
- Blindfolds

How to:

Begin talking about our eyes and what we use them for (link to RBS exhibition by mentioning that some airmen suffered damage to their eyes. For some, their eyes needed surgery and time to heal for others it was permanent. The eyes were the first area of the body which McIndoe would operate on due to the importance of sight)

Suggested questions to ask before activity:

Why are our eyes important?

Why do we need to be able to see in our everyday lives?

What would happen if we couldn't see or were partially sighted?

Introduce activity

We are going to put on blindfolds and see if we can guess the objects in the feely bags, without being able to see. What can we learn about the objects purely from touch?

Put blindfolds on and ask children to feel an object, ask them to choose one word to describe it. Then ask them to say what they think it is. Pull the object out and see if they were right.

Talk to the children throughout the activity, which objects are easy to tell and which are impossible e.g. you can't tell colours and shapes which are very similar by just feeling...

Summarise the session and share findings with the group.

Suggested questions after activity:

Was the activity easy or difficult?

What was challenging about the activity?

Which objects were really difficult?

How did the activity make you feel?

How do you think the airmen felt?

How might it affect their everyday lives?

How might their friends and families feel?