

Dear Educator,

The award-winning *Blue's Clues* set the bar for curriculum-driven shows created for young viewers. Now, Blue and her friends are returning to television with new problem-solving adventures for today's generation of preschoolers. Mark your calendar — ***Blue's Clues & You!*** is coming to Nickelodeon, premiering Monday, November 11.

Now's the time to introduce Blue and her friends to your preschoolers with this free teaching kit created by Nickelodeon and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI). Your children will learn about teamwork and friendship as they practice social and developmental learning skills such as pre-reading and math. Best of all, students will have fun working together to figure out Blue's clues!

Please share this kit with other teachers in your school. These standards-based materials are protected by copyright, but you may make as many copies as you need for educational purposes. Then, be sure to tune in to premieres of ***Blue's Clues & You!***, beginning November 11.

Return the enclosed reply card or comment online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-blues-clues to let us know your thoughts on this program. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



Questions? Contact us toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or email us at feedback@ymiclassroom.com



HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Make copies of this teacher's guide, the three activity sheets, and parent letter. Prepare the materials for each activity in advance. Display the poster and use it as a visual aid and learning tool for each activity by inviting students to "seek and find" items in the scene, such as shapes, colors, and characters. Write students' names in the "Meet Our Friends" area and use it to remind your students that good friends work together as a team, just like Blue and her friends. Send home copies of the letter for parents/guardians to extend the learning adventures.

Activity 1 Let's Send Mail to a Friend!

In this activity, children are introduced to Blue, Josh (the new host), and Mailbox as they learn about the importance of being a good friend. This would be a good activity to do during morning or afternoon circle time.

Materials needed: poster, copies of the activity sheet, crayons

Gather students together in front of the poster. Tell them that the poster shows friends who work together as a team. Point out Josh, Blue, and the other characters, as well as their own names listed on the poster. Explain that Blue is a puppy who often needs Josh's help. Since Blue does not speak in words, she expresses herself in other ways — drawing, dancing, singing, and especially through the game she created called "Blue's Clues." Blue leaves clues for Josh to figure out.

Ask students: *What are some ways you think Josh might help Blue? What are some ways friends help each other?* Talk about how friends help each other. For example, what would a friend do to help a classmate who accidentally spills their crayons? Ask two students to role-play this scenario. You may also choose to role-play other similar scenarios, such as taking turns, sharing a favorite toy, or holding the door open for a friend.

Tell students that it's important to do kind things, but it's also important to say kind things. Have the students give examples of words that friends use to be kind, such as "please" and "thank you." Tell students that when they use kind words and do kind things for each

Target Audience

Preschool and daycare students, their teachers, parents, and caregivers

Program Objectives

- Reinforce the concepts of friendship and teamwork for young children
- Engage children in activities that support developmental skills including pre-reading, math, and deductive reasoning, as well as motor skills and movement
- Engage children in problem-solving learning adventures

Program Components

- A two-page teacher's guide
- Three reproducible classroom activity sheets
- A reproducible parent take-home letter
- A classroom wall poster
- A set of tattoos for students
- A microsite with downloadable PDFs and additional teaching resources at ymiclassroom.com/blues-clues
- A reply card for your feedback, or comment online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-blues-clues



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other, they are working as a team to make their classroom a fun place.

Tell students that there are many people who cannot hear. So we can say “please” and “thank you” to them using American Sign Language.

To say “please”, have students put their hand on their chest and move it in a counter-clockwise circle several times. To see a video, go to: lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/p/please.htm

To say “thank you”, have students put two fingers against their lips (hand flat) and then move their hand outward and down. To see a video, go to: lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/t/thankyou.htm

Also review the concept of teamwork. Ask students to name some things they do together. Answers might include play games, read, etc. Explain that working together they can do things that may be hard to do on their own.

Tell students that when Blue and Josh want to speak kind words to their friends who are far away, they can do it by sending mail. Their friend Mailbox helps Blue and Josh send and receive emails and letters. Before Blue and Josh get the mail, they always sing and dance to the Mailtime song. Tell students that today, they will pretend to send mail to Blue and Josh, but first, they need to learn and sing the Mailtime song. To hear the song, go to nickjr.com/blues-clues-and-you/videos/mail-time-with-josh-and-blue.

Lyrics: Here's the mail, it never fails. It makes me wanna wag my tail. When it comes I wanna wait....mail!

Get your students up and moving when they sing. They can hop, wiggle, and “wag their tails” as you sing for the mail.

Pass out the activity sheet. Point out Blue, Josh, and Mailbox on the sheet. Tell students that they get to create pretend mail to send to Blue and Josh. Have each student draw a picture of something they like to do with their friends on the front of the postcard. They should also write their name (with help if needed) on the line. On the back of the postcard, have an adult helper transcribe a note from the child to Blue and Josh describing the picture.

Create a classroom mailbox and have students place the postcards they make in the mailbox. Invite each student to talk about their drawing and the message on the back (if applicable). As students share their postcards, use this as an

opportunity to reinforce concepts of friendship, kindness, and teamwork. For example, if a postcard says “Dear Blue and Josh, I like to play at the playground with my friends,” then talk about some ways students can be good friends on the playground, such as by waiting patiently for their turn on the swings.

Extension Idea: Invite parents/guardians to send notes to the students and place them in the mailbox, or send your own notes to the students to let them know some of the fun things they will be doing as a team.

Activity 2 Fun with Numbers and Friends!

In this activity, students are introduced to beloved characters Slippery Soap, Shovel and Pail, and Mr. Salt and Mrs. Pepper as they learn about numbers.

Materials needed: copies of the activity sheet, crayons, objects to count (optional)

Gather the students where they can see the poster again. Tell them that Blue and Josh have many friends, just like we have many friends in school. Blue and Josh’s friends include Slippery Soap, Mr. Salt and Mrs. Pepper, Paprika, Cinnamon, Sage, Ginger, Shovel and Pail, Mailbox, Tickety Tock, and Sidable Drawer. Point out these characters on the poster as you mention them. Ask the students to count the friends with you as you count them on the poster. How many friends do Blue and Josh have? Then count the friends in the classroom. How many friends do the students have?

Blue and Josh like to spend time with their friends. Can the students help Blue get to her friends? Pass out the activity sheet. Ask the students to trace the path Blue takes to get to her friends. How many images are on each path? Have the students count the images and trace the number.

Extension Idea: Invite students to go on a number hunt in the classroom! Ask them to search for one thing that is brown, two things that are red, etc. Or have them guess how many crayons are in a box, books on a shelf, blocks in a bin, etc., and then count them together.

Activity 3 My Own Handy Dandy Notebook!

In this activity, children engage in clue-ventures as they use problem-solving skills to figure out what Blue wants to do.

Materials needed: white paper, black crayon, a chair designated as the “Thinking Chair”, copies of the activity sheet, crayons

Explain to the students that Blue loves to play a game called “Blue’s Clues.” Blue and Josh play the game to figure out what Blue wants. Sometimes, she just needs something, like a drink to go with her snack. Other times, she wants to do something, like go to the library. To help Josh figure out what she wants, Blue puts her paw print on three things for Josh to find. He puts the clues in his Handy Dandy Notebook. When Josh finds all three clues, he sits down in the Thinking Chair to figure them out.

Tell students that it’s their turn to play “Blue’s Clues.” Explain that Blue’s friend is coming over, and she wants to have a special food for dinner. What could it be? They have to figure it out.
Hint: It can be slippery.

Using plain white paper and a black crayon, draw and present three clues to the class, one at a time, to represent spaghetti. For the first clue, draw a cooking pot on a sheet of paper. Hold it up and let the students make some guesses. Then show them the second clue: A plate drawn on a sheet of paper. Again, let students make some guesses. Finally, show them the third clue: Squiggly lines drawn on a piece of paper.



Give the students some time to figure out the three clues. Then let each child sit in the designated “Thinking Chair” as they make their final guess. *What does Blue want to have for dinner?* She wants spaghetti!

Pass out the activity sheet and tell students they are going to figure out another set of Blue’s Clues. Have the students color each clue. Then let each student take a turn sitting in the “Thinking Chair” to figure out the clue set. [Answer: Blue wants to have a birthday party!] Have students sing Happy Birthday to Blue, and then brainstorm birthday presents for Blue.

Extension Idea: Have the children come up with their own clues to go along with something Blue wants to do. For example, if Blue wants to go to the beach, what clues could she leave for Josh? Or download clue sets at ymiclassroom.com/blues-clues that you can use to challenge students.

Resources

Nickjr.com/blues-clues-and-you
ymiclassroom.com/blues-clues

nickelodeon.

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Activity
1

Let's Send Mail to a Friend!



Reproducible Master

It's mailtime! Make a postcard for Blue and Josh. Draw a picture to show them what you like to do with your friends.

From your friend, _____



Parents/Caregivers:

Watch the new **Blue's Clues & You!** coming to Nickelodeon November 11. Your children will have fun as Blue and her friends empower, challenge, and build preschoolers' self-esteem, all while helping them learn and making them laugh!

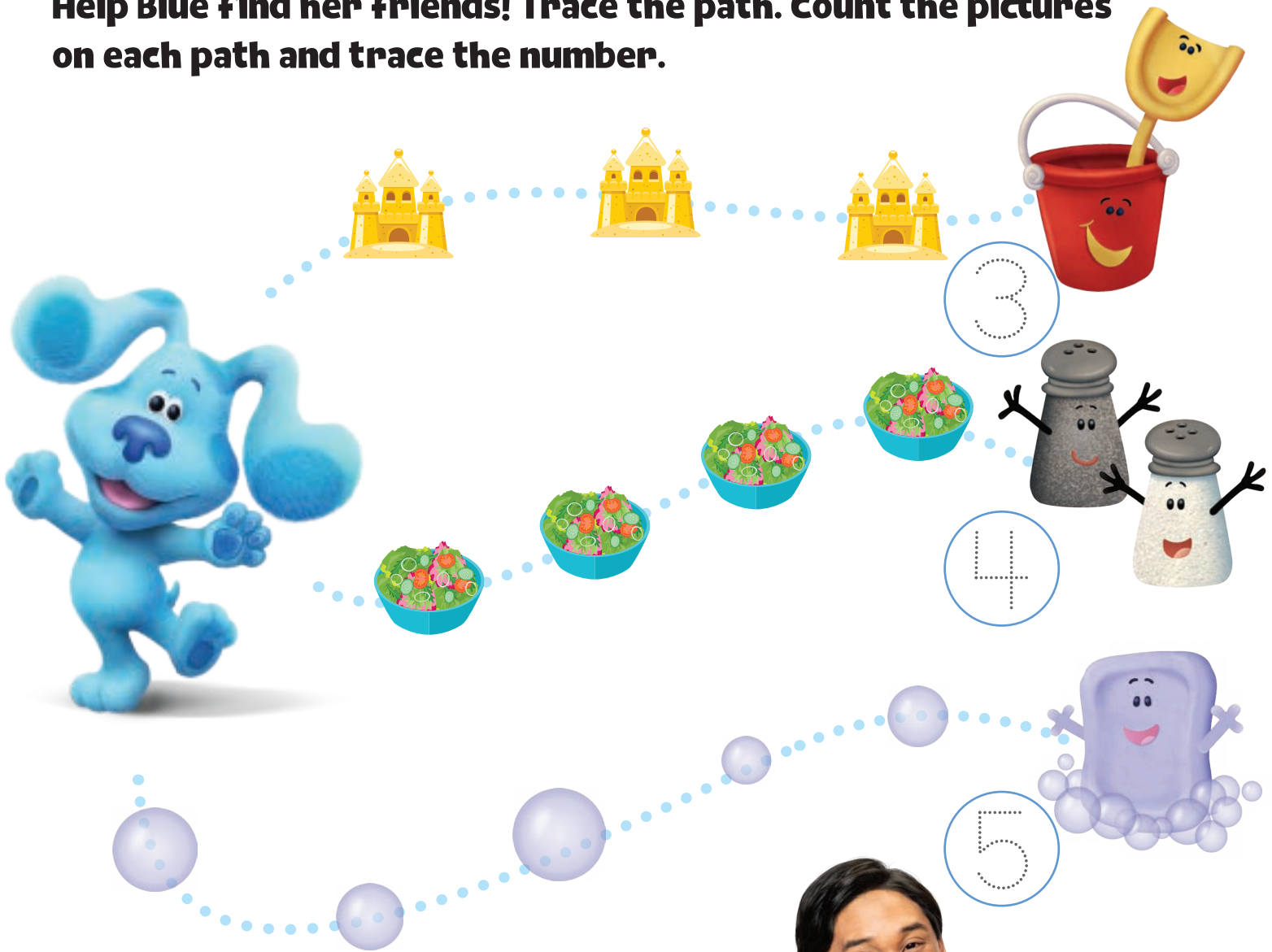
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Fun with Numbers and Friends!

Help Blue find her friends! Trace the path. Count the pictures on each path and trace the number.



Parents/Caregivers:

Watch the new *Blue's Clues & You!* coming to Nickelodeon November 11.

Your children will have fun learning with Blue and her friends. Go on a numbers and shape hunt in your home. Have your children count things that are circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles.

**Blue's
clues
& you!**

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Activity
3

Reproducible Master

My Own Handy Dandy Notebook!

Blue has left you three clues. Can you figure out what she wants to do?



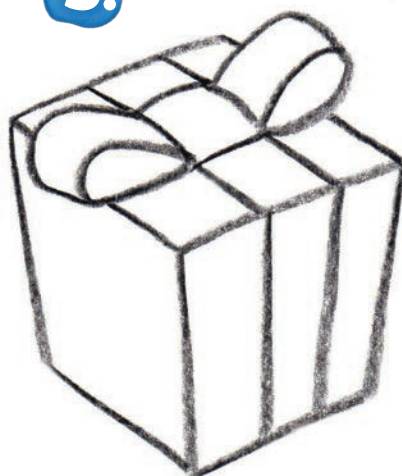
1.



2.



3.



PARENTS/CAREGIVERS:

Watch the new *Blue's Clues & You!* coming to Nickelodeon November 11. Your children will learn and have fun interacting with Blue and her friends to figure out the clues! Try your own clue sets at home.

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Dear Families,

The award-winning *Blue's Clues* set the bar for curriculum-driven shows created for young viewers. Now, Blue and her friends are returning to television with new problem-solving adventures for today's generation of preschoolers. Mark your calendar — ***Blue's Clues & You!*** is coming to Nickelodeon, premiering Monday, November 11.



An update of the beloved classic, ***Blue's Clues & You!*** captures everything that made the original series so fun, interactive, and educational. Each episode centers on the adventures of Blue, a cheerful puppy who loves playing games, and Josh, her human friend and the show's live-action host. Together, the two invite young viewers to help them solve a puzzle, using clues that Blue has hidden in their home. Along the way, they have exciting adventures while learning about everything from pre-reading and math skills, to science, problem solving, and social skills.

We encourage you to learn along with your preschooler and extend the fun by having your own clue-ventures at home. Play along with Blue and Josh by giving your child a set of clues while in the car, grocery shopping, or around the dinner table. You might say the words or draw pictures of each item. We have included some examples of clue sets to get you started, or make up your own. Cut out the paw print and make copies to mark clues when you play at home. Choose the most comfortable chair in your house as the "Thinking Chair" and see if your children can figure out the puzzles.

WHAT DOES BLUE WANT TO DO?

1. A duck + a duck + a goose = Play Duck, Duck, Goose
2. Balloon + present + party hat = Have a party
3. Mug + chocolate + marshmallows = Have hot chocolate
4. Bathing suit + swimming pool + floaties = Go swimming
5. Dirt + seeds + watering can = Plant a garden



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