

Why(r)us the Virus

Guide and Activities*

**This guide is offered as an enrichment to the book, Why(r)us the Virus, to anyone who has purchased a copy of the book. All rights reserved. Copyright 2020 by Kathleen Finnegan. Requests for extending the use of these documents to other persons or groups should be made to the author at whyrusthevirus@gmail.com. Information on translations is available at whyrusthevirus.com.*

SYNOPSIS

Preschoolers Sami and Seira learn the basics of preventing the spread of a virus while still having fun together. They are reassured to find out about all the people who are working to help those who are sick and find ways to express their wish that the virus would go away.

BEFORE READING

Look at the cover

Ask the child what they see.

Ask the child

[Ex: smiling play set, children, children with facemasks]

Explain what a virus is

Why are the kids wearing masks?

Look at the book's pictures

[Answer need not be correct, just getting the child to think about it.]

Ask for a prediction

Ask again: Why are the kids wearing masks?

Don't stay too long, just ask them to find interesting or fun things.

What do they think the book will be based on the 1) cover 2) definition of a virus 3) pictures they have seen

VOCABULARY

Virus: Something that can make us sick but is too small to see.

Vaccine: Something scientists make to help us not get sick from a virus

Face Mask: Something that covers our mouth and nose and helps keep us and other people well

FOCUSING QUESTIONS

What is a virus? How can we be safe from a virus? Why should we try to be safe? What is the best way to wash our hands? Who should wear a face mask? When should we wear a face mask? What is a safe social distance?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Coloring Book: – Color the Whyrus page, then cut them out and glue onto other pictures from the coloring book to show where the virus might be found. (Included)

Whyrus Sticks: – Glue colored Whyrus images to tongue depressors, popsicle sticks or straws. Have the child wave the Whyrus Stick to show if the Whyrus is made happy, crabby, snappy or flabbergasty when they see what the people in the picture are doing ...(wearing facemasks makes the Whyrus crabby, sitting close together makes the Whyrus happy, etc.)

DIY Whyrus: – Follow the step-by-step directions to draw your own Whyrus crew.

Facemask Pledge: Pledge to wear a face mask – Substitute “Take The Face Mask Pledge With Me” for the line “Come and wash your hands with me” and sing or speak the words

Baby Shark “Wear a Mask”: “Wear Your Mask Do Do Do Do Do Do”, “Wash Your Hands Do Do Do Do Do Do”, “Give Me Space Do Do Do Do Do Do”

For additional resources, go to <https://www.whyrusthevirus.com/activities>.