

"The Lion and the Mouse"

An activity, art project, song and dance written and developed by **AGREE**.

Step 1: Tell the story of the Lion and the Mouse, as told by AGREE

Step 2: Discuss the following questions with your classroom:

- Why did Lion choose to not eat Mouse? (e.g. selfish reasons, lazy, too much of a hassle)
- Why did Mouse choose to help Lion?(e.g. Lion let Mouse go, keeps promises)
- What choices can we make to help us get along? (e.g. to share, to take turns, to do nice things for each other)

Step 3: Lion and Mouse Masks Art Project

- Have each child choose to make a Lion or a Mouse mask. You can pre-cut a mask shape, with eye holes, out of a paper plate. Use a hole puncher to create holes on either side of each mask.
- Decide whether to use crayons, markers or paint to decorate the masks (Yellow/Orange for Lion and Grey/Black for Mouse).
- In addition you can add pipe cleaners for whiskers and buttons for eyes and noses. Once dry, tie elastic or string to the holes to attach the masks to the children's heads.

Step 4: Vocabulary and Movement

Introduce the following words, discuss their meanings and create motions to go along with each word. Talk about how different words can be used to describe the same thing (*Big/Large, Small/Petite*), these types of words are synonyms.

Big Small Squeak Roar Large Petite Seeds Meat

Optional: Create a chart on large poster paper and write each child's name on it. Have each child describe or say a favorite food they like to eat and write it next to their name. Read through the list of food and identify any food choices that are the same as other children and any food choices that are different from others .

We can live the Golden Rule by learning about what other people like and respecting any differences.



Step 5: Dance and Music:

Have Lions gather on one side of the room and Mice on the other, with their masks on. Lyrics are below with the Movement Vocabulary words in bold, signaling when to do the movements your students created. Options for movements in parenthesis. The song "You are Big, I am Small" can be accessed at: <https://goldenruleeducation.org/category/curriculum/pre-k/>.

"You are Big, I am Small"

From AGREE's *Stars Shine Brightly* Album

Mice: You are **Big** (make a big motion with body) and I am **Small** (make a small motion). I go **Squeak** (hands by face around mouth) and you go **Roar!** (hands and body large, fingers clawlike).

Lions: I am **Large** (big motion) and you're **Petite** (small motion) You eat **Seeds** (small motion near mouth, eating seeds) and I eat **Meat!** (Big motion, like grabbing meat).

Both: But if I **Help** you (point to each other, Lions point at Mice, and Mice point as Lions) and You help **Me** (Point to self with thumb) the Golden Rule is all we need (nod heads "yes" while walking to a circle)

Both: (Hold hands in a circle, and walk to the right) And maybe just maybe we're more alike than a Lion and a Mouse, and maybe just maybe together we'll live peacefully

Instrumental break: Mice and Lions walk back to where they began the song. Bounce with the music interludes. The song repeats 2 more times, getting faster each time. The last chorus repeats, have children continue walking in a circle during the repeat. On the last beat of the song invite the Lions to "Roar!" and the Mice to "Squeak!"

Golden Message: Everyone can get along, no matter how big or small.

