



## OVERVIEW

Moonbeams learn that God made each person uniquely different and special. By exploring their own special abilities and talents, they learn to value themselves and each other, developing self-esteem in a balanced manner that stimulates mutual encouragement.

- Play and Creative Activities
- Engagement in Learning Experiences
- Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity
- Personal Power
- Self-Esteem

## OBJECTIVES

To earn this emblem Moonbeams need to complete at least one activity from each section, the Bible lesson and the *Someone Special* booklet.

## WORD BANK

- Special
- Difference
- Shadow

## DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS SUPPORTED BY THE ACTIVITIES

- Community Cherishes and Values Young Children

## BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Children of Moonbeam age are in the process of developing socially. They're generally friendly and enjoy being with other children. They want to be helpful. Cooperation, sharing, and taking turns tends to come quite easily. Adult approval is important to them. Children want to be like the adults they admire and will imitate their actions.

Helping children explore new activities and discover things they do well will be very rewarding. Encourage children to try new things on their own. Lend a hand only when necessary. Offer lots of praise and encouragement throughout the process and celebrate small achievements.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

Ask the Moonbeams to look around the group. Point out that everyone is different. Some are smaller and others are taller. Explain that while we're different sizes, God made everyone and we're all special to Him. Here are some ways to explore differences together.

### THE COLORS OF US

Read *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz. The book provides a positive look at diversity through the eyes of a seven-year-old artist. This is a delightful book that celebrates the beauty of every child.

### GRAPH THE DIFFERENT COLORS OF HAIR

Make a graph the different colors of hair in the troop. Which color is most common? Is there a color that's so special only one or two children have that color of hair?

## DIFFERENT TASTE PREFERENCES ✱

### SUPPLIES:

- 2 paper plates for each Moonbeam
- Crayons
- Assortment of bite-sized pieces of food for taste test

Different people enjoy eating different kinds of food. Let children explore different foods to see whether they find them yummy or yucky.

Before you begin, have each child use two paper plates and crayons to prepare a happy face (yummy) and a sad face (yucky).

😊 Yummy    ☹️ Yucky

Prepare bite-sized pieces of food such as sweet and dill pickles, olives and fresh vegetables. Have the children taste each food and hold up one of the faces to show whether they think it's yummy or yucky.



## SHADOW FIGURES

### SUPPLIES:

- Butcher paper or newsprint paper
- Tape
- Markers
- Crayons
- Lamp

Hang butcher paper or newsprint paper on the wall. Use a lamp to cast the Moonbeams' shadows onto the paper. Trace their shadows.

Have the Moonbeams decorate their shadows to match their clothing, hair, etc.

## CRAFTS

### SUPERHERO MASKS

#### SUPPLIES:

- Cardstock or construction paper
- Crayons
- Paints
- Sequins
- Glitter
- Glue
- Fake "gems"
- String or narrow elastic
- Hole punch
- Stapler

Superheroes have unique and special powers. Some can fly, others are very strong. Ask the children to think of things they do best. Those



will be their super powers. Have them choose special super hero names to match their super powers (for example, Art-Girl, Mr. Speedy, etc.).

Have the Moonbeams make super hero masks that match their super powers, using the craft supplies provided. Attach masks with string or elastic. Strips of cardstock could be stapled to the mask in place of string.

### ENHANCEMENT IDEAS

After the children complete the masks, set up a super hero photo booth and take super photos. Provide brightly colored tee shirts, towels or material to use for capes and costumes.



## FUZZY FRIENDS

SUPPLIES (for each child):

- 3"x9" piece of craft fur or fake fur
- 2 googly eyes (or round stickers)
- Pipe cleaner
- Glue
- Plastic spoon

Guide the Moonbeams through these steps:

1. Wrap pipe cleaner around fur, about 2" from the end to form a head.
2. Shape ends of the pipe cleaner to form "feelers."
3. Glue eyes to the "head."

While the fuzzy friends are drying, have the children choose names for their new friends. Talk about ways the children can care for their fuzzy friends. Have the Moonbeams imagine what their fuzzy friends might like to eat. Allow children to use plastic spoons and pretend to feed their pets.

Let the children experiment with petting, brushing and hugging the friends. Explain that just as we love and care for our fuzzy friends, God loves and cares for us.

## SONGS & RHYMES

### I AM SPECIAL

(To the tune of "Frère Jacques/Are You Sleeping?")

I am special. I am special.  
God made me. God made me.  
He made my eyes and nose,  
My hands and wiggly toes.  
God made me. God made me.

Remind the children that each person is special to God because He made them.

### MY SHADOW

(By Robert Louis Stevenson, *A Child's Garden of Verses*, 1913)

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than  
I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump  
into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he  
likes to grow—  
Not at all like proper children, which is always  
very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller, like an  
india-rubberball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's  
none of him at all.

## GAMES

### SHADOW TAG

Shadows are a special part of us. Play a game of "Shadow Tag." This is played the same way as regular tag, except to tag other children, "It" steps on their shadows.

### THE WAY YOU MOVE ME

In this activity, children learn that God made our bodies to move many different ways. While we can't do everything, we can use our bodies to do many, many things.

Use Wiffle® balls, Ping-Pong® balls, or large pompoms and a bucket to see how many different ways children can make a "basket." Have the Moonbeams take turns shooting in as many different ways as they can—kicking, throwing, slam-dunking, and dropping the balls from between the knees or under the chin, etc.

Your job as a leader is to be a cheerleader who offers lots of praise and enthusiasm throughout the exercise.

After the game, follow up with a discussion time. Ask the children to think of different ways we're able to move. God designed our bodies so we can hop, bend, crawl, skip, run, throw, etc.

NOTE: Be sensitive to children with physical limitations during this exercise. Find other ways they can help. Those not physically able to play might become scorekeepers, cheerleaders, etc.

## SNACKS ✱

### GINGERBREAD/SUGAR COOKIE PEOPLE

SUPPLIES:

- Ingredients to make gingerbread or sugar cookies
- Goodies for decorating (icing, raisins, chocolate chips, M&Ms®, etc.)

Bake or purchase gingerbread or sugar cookie people in advance of the meeting.

Provide icing, raisins, chocolate chips, M&Ms or other goodies to use in decorating the cookies.

After finishing the craft, talk about how different the cookies look. Ask the Moonbeams why their cookie is special. (Answer: It's special because I made it.)

Explain just as their own cookie is special, each person is special to God because He made us.

## BIBLE LESSON

### GOD LOVES ME TO PIECES

"For You made the parts inside me." Psalm 139:13a (NLV)

Say: **Did you know God made you special? He made every part of you. He made your eyes and hair. He made your hands and feet. He even made the hidden parts that are inside of you. He made your mind and your heart.**

**God made our bodies so that all the parts can work together to keep us healthy.**

Discuss:

- **What is the job of the brain?**  
(To think and to tell the other parts of our bodies what to do)
- **What is the job of our heart?**  
(To pump blood through our bodies) **Everyone try to feel your heart beat.**
- **What do our lungs do?** (Help us breathe) **On the count of three, take a big breath and see how long you can hold it.**
- **The liver and intestines clean our blood and get rid of waste so we don't get sick.**

Say: **Let's thank God for making all of our parts special.** Lead the children in prayer.

## SOMEONE SPECIAL BOOKLET

Prior to meeting, copy the booklet pages and staple them together to make a book for each Moonbeam.

SUPPLIES:

- *Someone Special Booklet* from *Leaders' Resource Pages* (one per child)
- Crayons
- Glue
- Pencils
- Magazines/catalogues for pictures (optional)

- Finger paints (optional)
- Tape measure

Complete instructions for each page of the *Someone Special Booklet* are given in the *Leaders' Resource Pages*.

## LEADERS' RESOURCES

### BOOKS

*Love You Forever* by Robert N. Munsch

*God Made You Nose to Toes* by Leslie Parrott

### DVDS/VIDEOS

*Veggie Tales: A Snoodle's Tale* by Word Entertainment, Inc.

### WEBSITES

Follow this link for multicultural paper doll patterns to print and use. Each child can design a paper doll that looks like they do. Check out the site at: [www.makingfriends.com](http://www.makingfriends.com).

To find activities, craft ideas and games to use with this emblem, check out: <http://pinterest.com/samoonbeams/someone-special/>.

