Follow Maisy and her friends in these delightful picture books that introduce readers to new experiences in a welcoming and straightforward way. Each book portrays Maisy in various real-life adventures that reflect events preschoolers often encounter. The text is simple and fun, and the illustrations are bright and colorful. This kit contains easy-to-use activities and reproducibles written with the preschool curriculum in mind and designed to foster early literacy.

For more Maisy, visit www.maisyfunclub.com.

Story-hour kit written by Karen Cardillo.
**TEAMWORK**

*Maisy Plays Soccer* and *Maisy Goes Camping* are the perfect books to exemplify teamwork among Maisy and her friends. Ask the children if there has ever been a time when they needed help from friends to complete a task, such as when putting up a tent. Ask them if they play a game or a sport in which the effort of everyone helps make the experience more enjoyable. Engage the children in an artistic activity that will reveal the impact of teamwork: Have one child begin a drawing, but not finish it. Pass the paper to the next child to add to the drawing. Keep it going until the last child has contributed. Discuss the picture and explain how it was a team effort!

**FIVE SENSES**

Several of the Maisy books can be used for activities that explore the five senses. For example, using *Maisy Goes to the City*, ask children to close their eyes and imagine what kind of sounds they might hear in a big city. As a contrast, read *Maisy Goes on Vacation*. Ask the children if they can smell the sea air or hear the seagulls. Ask them what the sand and water feel like on their feet. Discuss the five senses of sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell. Have each child trace his or her hand on a piece of paper (an adult may need to assist). In the palm part of the drawing, have each child draw a picture of his or her favorite Maisy character. Explain that the five fingers represent each of the five senses, and that their “Maisy hand” will help them remember.
FEELINGS

Maisy and her friends like adventure. They go to the movies and go camping. They take trips to museums and to the city. They go on vacation. Maisy even attends her first sleepover. But with any first experience, fear of the unknown can produce feelings of nervousness. Read Maisy Goes on a Sleepover; Maisy Goes to the Hospital; or Maisy, Charley, and the Wobbly Tooth. Each of these stories highlights a first-time event that could cause anxiety for a young child. Ask the children if they have ever been nervous about going to the doctor or dentist. Ask: Have you ever been to a new friend’s house and didn’t know what might happen? How did it turn out? Was it better than you thought it would be? Distribute a white paper plate to each child and have everyone think about something that makes them feel scared, as well as what makes them feel better. Have each child draw a picture of his or her face looking sad or scared on one side of the plate, and on the reverse make a drawing of his or her face looking happy. Children can take their creations home to monitor their feelings, turning it to the happy or sad side depending on how they are feeling that day.

“THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER”

Children love music, especially when they can join in and sing along. After reading Maisy Goes to Preschool and Maisy Goes to the Museum, teach the children the chorus to the song “The More We Get Together.” Tell the children that you are going to sing the Maisy version of the song and that they will need to sing the chorus. Have available any musical instruments that the children can play as well.

What does Maisy do at preschool?
At preschool? At preschool?
Does she paint and read a story?
Take a nap and play with Charley?

Chorus:
’Cause her friends are my friends and my friends are her friends.
The more we get together the happier we’ll be.

What does Maisy do at the museum?
The museum? The museum?
She sees bones, bugs, and rockets.
She makes music and plays with puppets.

Chorus:
’Cause her friends are my friends and my friends are her friends.
The more we get together the happier we’ll be.
COLORS

Lucy Cousins’s bold and beautiful art offers the perfect platform for teaching colors to preschool children. Begin by cutting several 24” x 4” strips of poster board. Draw five large circles on each strip and color them (in sequence) red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. After reading *Maisy Goes to the Library*, play a color game with the children. Place a color strip at each child’s feet. Then call out various directives: jump on yellow, right foot on blue, left hand on red, and so on. This game will get the children moving as they review colors and the concept of left and right.

FRIENDSHIP

The theme of friendship is integral to all of the Maisy books. We chose to use *Maisy Goes to the Movies* for the following activity, but you could use any of the Maisy First Experience Books. Discuss how Maisy and her friends enjoy one another’s company and like to have fun together. Have children explore the friendships in their own lives by asking them to think about their friends and what kinds of things they like to do together, such as go to the movies or swim. Ask: Have you ever done any of the same things that Maisy has done with her friends? Have children illustrate their friendship experiences on a sheet of white paper. Encourage them to make bright, vivid drawings inspired by the art of Lucy Cousins.
Maisy and her friends like to play soccer, but the numbers are missing on their uniforms! Can you write them in?

Maisy is number 1.
Tallulah is number 2.
Charley is number 3.
Help Maisy pack her things for her vacation and for her sleepover. Draw what Maisy will need for her trip.
Maisy sees a brightly colored parrot at the museum. What colors will you use to color your own parrot?
Spell M-A-I-S-Y as you go through the maze to help Maisy find a nice, quiet place to read her book.