



# Just a Little Bit

**Mouse and Elephant want to play on the seesaw, but they're going to need a little help from their friends.**

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Elephant and Mouse want to play on the seesaw. There is one problem, it won't move! One by one, their friends come to help them out. Read on to find out who makes the seesaw finally move!

**Ages:** 3 to 7 years

**Interest Level:**  
Preschool to 2nd Grade

**ATOS Reading Level:**  
2.7

**Lexile:** AD 480

**ISBN:** 9780395778760

**Copyright:** 1993

**Genre:** Fiction

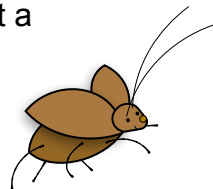
**Classification:** Picture Story Book

**Topics:** spatial relationships, patterns, measurement, problem solving, cause and effect, predicting outcomes

**Math Connections:** Use *Just a Little Bit* to introduce the concepts of balance, comparison, estimation, and predicting.

Encourage and help your child to build simple scales from household and recycled items (directions follow) to explore the weights of different objects. Provide a small collection of items that your child can weigh. The collection might include rocks, twigs, spoons, crayons, or small toys. Ask your child to predict how many crayons weigh the same as a toy car. Have your child test to see if their prediction was close. Have your child estimate how many crayons they should add to the scale or take away from the scale.

Use *Just a Little Bit* to introduce levers and fulcrums. Visit a local park and explore sitting at different points on a seesaw. What do you notice? Build a seesaw with a board placed over a rock. Ask your child if a light object and a heavy object can balance. Encourage your child to explore whether this is possible. Ask them to explain to you what they discovered.



**Extension Questions:**

1. Why do you think Elephant's side of the seesaw goes down and Mouse's goes up?
2. Which animals do you think would balance *you* on a seesaw?
3. How many animals does it take to lift Elephant off the ground?

<b>Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts</b>	down, little bit, more, up
<b>Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts</b>	balanced, weight, force
<b>Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension</b>	grimaced, hovered, trumpeted

**Early Math Project Resources:**

- An Elephant Equals: <https://bit.ly/33ynLGW> (English)
- Un elefante es igual a: <https://bit.ly/3morpe9> (Spanish)
- Make a Scale Activity: <https://bit.ly/3koPv7z> (English)
- Haga una balanza: <https://bit.ly/33xzSnH> (Spanish)
- Which is Heavier?: <https://bit.ly/2KVT4FI> (English)
- ¿Cuál es más pesado?: <https://bit.ly/3qfw0S9> (Spanish)
- Just a Little Bit Animals landscape: <https://bit.ly/3fTzT5J>
- Just a Little Bit Animals columns: <https://bit.ly/33ux0rV>
- Just a Little Bit Animals: <https://bit.ly/2HUvmZ> (English)
- Just a Little Bit Animales: <https://bit.ly/2VrfFeJ> (Spanish)

**Online Resources:**

Can a mouse lift an elephant? Science lesson: <https://bit.ly/3lneSWT>

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Preschool/TK	Preschool Learning Foundations <a href="https://bit.ly/34vEeN3">https://bit.ly/34vEeN3</a>
Preschool/TK	<b>Geometry 2.1</b> Identify positions of objects and people in space, such as in/on/under, up/down, inside/outside, beside/between, and in front/behind. <b>Measurement 1.1</b> Demonstrate awareness that objects can be compared by length, weight, or capacity, by noting gross differences, using words such as bigger, longer, heavier, or taller, or by placing objects side by side to compare length.

**Related Books:** *Who Sank the Boat* by Pamela Allen; *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins

**Find this book at your local library:** [https://www.worldcat.org/title/just-a-little-bit/oclc/50631460&referer=brief\\_results](https://www.worldcat.org/title/just-a-little-bit/oclc/50631460&referer=brief_results)

