

# Storytime Activity Guide

## *Balancing Act*

by Ellen Stoll Walsh

*Balancing Act* is a simple yet engaging story about two mice who create a teeter-totter by balancing a stick on a rock. When a salamander joins them, it creates an imbalance until another salamander balances on the other side. Children can make predictions about what will happen when more and more creatures flock to either side of the stick.

### Did you know?

A good foundation in **early math** prepares children for “math thinking,” and for later academic success. Early Math includes number sense, classifications and patterning, measurement, mathematical reasoning, and geometry (shapes). While reading *Balancing Act*, practice identifying the shapes and patterns you see. Use relational language (bigger, smaller, close, far) to develop your child’s early math skills.

The mice made a teeter-totter.



### Words to Practice

#### MATH WORDS

Lighter

Heavier

Balance

Weight and Weighs (who weighs more/less?)

### Talk about it!

How can you make the stick balanced?

What will happen when the salamander joins the mice? How do you know?

Do you think one side weighs more than the other side, or do both sides weigh the same?

### Find More Online

Scan this QR code for a Read Aloud of this book and more free resources.



[qrco.de/BalancingAct](http://qrco.de/BalancingAct)

## Create!

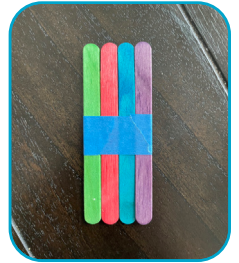
# Let's Build a Teeter-Totter

We will create our own teeter-totter and make predictions about which objects are heavier and lighter.  
What happens when you stack several things together?

### Materials needed:

- Tape
- A straw
- 4 pairs of different size coins
- Several small objects of different sizes/weights
- 4 skinny popsicle sticks or 2 wide popsicle sticks

1. Tape your popsicle sticks together to create a wide platform.
2. Tape your straw to the table so it doesn't move.
3. Place the middle of your popsicle stick platform over the straw. You just made a teeter-totter!
4. Pick coins of different sizes and place them on each side. Which one is heavier? Which one is lighter? Can you get them to balance?
5. Add more coins to different sides and make predictions about what you think will happen. Is the bigger coin heavier/lighter?
6. Find other small objects of different sizes and weights. Can you predict what will happen when you place them on different sides with different objects?



### Play: Let's Go to the Park!

Next time you go to the park or the playground, extend this book into your child's life by using the seesaw and experimenting in real life!

Ask questions like "What do you think would happen if you sat on one end, and I sat on the other?"

Then try it out! "What if you sit on one side, and we place your backpack on the other?" "Who is heavier, who is lighter?"

