

BrainMinders™ Mystery!

LESSON ONE

(a BrainMinders™ presentation for ages 3-5)



Characters:

Wise Old Owl – Deep authoritative voice, wise and kind

Phoebe Pilot – A Pilot Club Member, cares for her friends and loves community service projects!

Gerald Giraffe – Surfer dude, full of energy

Penny Panda – Gentle and soft spoken, a nurturing and gentle person

Martin Monkey – Young and energetic

Fiona Fox – Smart, focused, and curious about the world around her

Setting:

The woods in front of Wise Old Owl's house.

This script can be performed with actors in costumes or with puppets. The set can include fake trees and/or a painted forest backdrop.

Props:

- 1) Puzzle on poster board
- 2) A marker for writing the answers on the puzzle sign OR answers written on small pieces of paper with tape or Velcro on them to be placed on the puzzle board when indicated for answers: "yes," "helmet," "seatbelt," "soft...push," and "both ways."
- 3) Gerald should be wearing a helmet – make a small one for the puppet out of a small plastic bowl and black tape for straps.
- 4) Small knitted blankets for puppets or afghans made of yarn for adults in costumes.

Script

Wise Old Owl: Hello, boys and girls! My name is Wise Old Owl. It is so wonderful to see you today. I am hoping that you can help me with a mystery. This morning I opened my door and I found a puzzle on my doorstep. This note came with it:

“Dear Wise Old Owl,
Please solve the puzzle of the missing words.
Fill in the blanks with safety tips you’ve heard.
I will appear once the puzzle is solved.
Gather BrainMinders™ Buddies to answer them all.
A surprise is waiting for those who win.
Brain safety is the theme, and now please, begin!

Signed, a friend”

Wow. This is an exciting mystery! Will you help me complete the puzzle today? (*Wait for a yes*) Oh great!

I can see from the letter that this is about brain safety. That is my favorite thing to talk about in the world! I have learned a lot of things through the years. We store what we know in our brains. Our brains are protected inside our heads so they can be safe and do their job. Our brain’s job is to think creative thoughts, move our bodies, and get lots of messages from our bodies through our senses. Our senses allow us to touch, see, hear and smell!

It is really important to protect our brains so we can think our best thoughts, move around, and explore the world! So let us look at the first part of the puzzle to get started. “Is it true that exercise can make it easier for your brain to learn?”

Hmmmm. Perhaps I should take some quiet time to think about this. Whooooo would know this, Whooooo would know this....

(Enter Phoebe Pilot)

Phoebe Pilot: Hello Wise Old Owl!

Wise Old Owl: *(He jumps for joy)* Eureka! I do know the answer!! Oh Phoebe, hello! I didn't see you there. I was deep in thought. Someone left me a puzzle and I need to complete the pieces to solve the mystery of who sent it.

(Phoebe Pilot looks at the puzzle)

Phoebe Pilot: Oh how exciting and mysterious! My other Pilot friends would love this. We all enjoy talking about ways to keep our brains safe!

Wise Old Owl: I know it is the best topic to discuss, isn't it? And I remember now what the answer is to the first clue: The answer is "yes." When you exercise, it is easier to remember things you learn!

(Wise Old Owl writes "yes" in the puzzle or pastes or uses velcro to put the answer on the poster.)

Phoebe: That is correct! I am always ready to learn new things after exercise! Moving around is a great way to help your brain learn new things!

Wise Old Owl: Great! We are making progress. Can you stay and help with the next clue?

Phoebe Pilot: No, I'm sorry, I can't. I am on my way to buy some yarn, but I will try to stop by later.

Wise Old Owl: Well have fun. You do knit the most wonderful blankets! Which reminds me, I need a new blanket to help me stay warm in my tree house.

Phoebe Pilot: *(She giggles)* I know.

Wise Old Owl: What?

Phoebe Pilot: Nothing, I will see you later!

(Phoebe Pilot exits)

Wise Old Owl: Good-bye Phoebe! *(To audience)* Now, let's move on to the next clue. Oh wait! Before that, whoooo could be rolling by my house now, but Gerald Giraffe!

(Gerald Giraffe enters wearing a helmet)

Gerald Giraffe: Hey there, Wise Old Owl! I just had a totally awesome ride to your house on my bicycle! It was radical!

Wise Old Owl: *(Laughs)* So glad to hear it! I am so happy you came by today! Can you please help me with a puzzle that was left for us and the other BrainMinder™ Buddies. Here is the note and the puzzle (**hands** him the letter and points to the puzzle). If we can answer this puzzle a prize is waiting for us!

Gerald Giraffe: How cool! *(He walks over to the sign and reads)* "Wear a "blank" on your bike, scooter, skateboard, and skates to protect your head from injury." Awesome puzzle dude!

Wise Old Owl: Yes! And the answer is on your head! Do you know what it is boys and girls?
(if they say helmet) Yes!

(if they don't know) Let's ask Gerald!

Gerald Giraffe: It's a totally awesome helmet! Let me put the word in your puzzle! *(He writes "helmet" in the puzzle or pastes or uses velcro to put the answer on the poster)*

Gerald Giraffe: I always wear a helmet on my bicycle, skateboard, scooter, and skates to keep my brain safe.

Wise Old Owl: That's great Gerald! Now, as my note says, we need to get together all the BrainMinder™ Buddies today to answer the puzzle. I have already invited Penny Panda and Martin Monkey this morning to come over, but could you ride your bike to Fiona Fox's house and ask her to join us too?

Gerald Giraffe: With my helmet I can go anywhere! I am happy to go invite her to play! See ya later dude! Have an excellent time with Penny Panda and Martin Monkey!

(Gerald Giraffe exits)

Wise Old Owl: See you soon! I just know that these three will help to finish this puzzle so the author will be revealed. They we all can see what the prize is! You know, the note is signed "a friend" but I don't know WHOOOOO that friend might be! I will have to think about it some more. Thinking is what my brain does best!

(Penny Panda and Martin Monkey enter)

Martin Monkey: Hi there!

Penny Panda: Hello Wise Old Owl!

Wise Old Owl: Good day to you both! Thanks for coming over to help us solve this mystery!

Martin Monkey: This is exciting! What can we do to help?

Wise Old Owl: We'll take one statement at a time and work to fill in the blanks. I answered the first one already, and then Gerald Giraffe got the next one.

Penny Panda: Hmm...*(She walks to the sign and reads)* "Always wear your _"blank" _ in a car anytime you go anywhere." I know that! The answer is seatbelt! *(She writes "seatbelt" in the puzzle or pastes or uses velcro to put the answer on the poster.)*

Penny Panda: Everyone should buckle up their seat belt! Cars, trucks, vans, and even airplanes have seatbelts to keep drivers and passengers safe. If you are small, you need a car seat too. *(she asks the audience)* Did you know car seats are held in place by seat belts? *(if yes)* Good for you! *(if yes or no, say the following)* Check out your car seat the next time you get in your car, and you will see that it is attached to your very own seatbelt.

Wise Old Owl: Great explanation Fiona! How right you are!

Martin Monkey: Great job Fiona! Let me try next! *(He walks quickly and/or bounces over to the sign to read)* "Play on the ground that is _"blank" _ at the playground and never _"blank" _ friends because they might fall. " Wow! There are two blanks in this sentence. Let's see...play on the ground that is SOFT and never PUSH friends because they might fall."

Wise Old Owl: Great job!

(Martin Monkey writes “soft” and “push” in the puzzle or pastes or uses velcro to put the answers on the poster)

Martin Monkey: I love playgrounds but I never play on one without a soft surface. And I am always careful to watch where I am going. If I accidentally push a friend, they might get hurt and I don’t want that. We have to be careful on the playground to make sure our brains stay safe!

Penny Panda: Oh Martin, you are so smart. *(to the audience)* Why just yesterday, we were on the playground with the soft ground near my house and he walked past me slowly to get to the swings. *(to Martin Monkey)* I know how much you love to run and so I really appreciated that!

Martin Monkey: I wanted to make sure I didn’t accidentally bump into you. I may love to run around but on a playground I walk to the slide, swings, and other exciting play spots. And with a playground floor of wood chips or soft rubber, I know I am safer if I fall. A very hard concrete playground floor could hurt!

Penny Panda: You are so considerate and smart about where and how you play Martin Monkey! You know who else would really love this puzzle? Phoebe Pilot!

Wise Old Owl: Yes! She does love it! She was here when I answered the first part of the puzzle! She had to go to buy some yarn so she couldn’t stay.

Martin Monkey: Oh! She does make the most wonderful blankets, doesn’t she?

Penny Panda: Absolutely! They are lovely! I wish I had one for my house.

(Gerald Giraffe and Fiona Fox enter)

Martin Monkey and Penny Panda: Hi Gerald and Fiona

Fiona Fox: Hey there Buddies!

Gerald Giraffe: Hi again!

Wise Old Owl: Hello! I am so glad you both are here! Fiona Fox, did Gerald bring you up to speed on our mystery?

Fiona Fox: He sure did! I can't wait to help and see what will happen next with the mystery writer is revealed!

Wise Old Owl: Well, we only have one piece of the puzzle left and I think you can help us solve it, Fiona Fox. Here is it. *(Points to the puzzle)*

Fiona Fox: "No matter what, I must look _"blank" _ _"blank"__ before I cross the street to make sure it is safe." Well, well, well. This is a coincidence! This is what I did all the way to your house! "I must look BOTH WAYS before I cross the street." Before I could walk or Gerald could ride his bicycle across the street, we both needed to look both ways. If there was a traffic light, we had to wait for the "walk" sign to flash so we knew it was safe. *(to audience)* Please remember to look both ways before you cross to see if it is safe and never cross in the middle of the street. You only cross safely at intersections, where two streets meet!

(Fiona Fox writes "both ways" in the puzzle or pastes or uses velcro to put the answers on the poster.)

Martin Monkey: Not even if my ball goes into the middle of the street?

Fiona Fox: Nope. If your ball goes into the street, get an adult so they can go get it for you. No ball is worth putting your brain in danger.

Penny Panda: Or your arms or legs for that matter! You never want to get into a street if a car is coming.

Wise Old Owl: You are so right! This is such great team work! Thank you all for your answers!

(Phoebe Pilot enters)

Wise Old Owl: Hello Phoebe Pilot! Look! Our puzzle is complete!

Phoebe Pilot: How right you are! What a great brain safety puzzle! Everything looks great.

Wise Old Owl: Why thank you. Hey! Wait a minute! Are you the friend that sent this puzzle?

Phoebe Pilot: You guessed it! I am indeed! Pilots are just always looking for fun ways to help children Play Safe and Play Smart.

Fiona Fox: Oh my! What a great time we have had filling in the blanks with lots of ways to keep our brains safe and healthy!

Phoebe Pilot: And now for your surprise! In honor of your awesome brain safety knowledge, I have knitted each of you a blanket.

All: *(except Phoebe)* Thank you!

Gerald Giraffe: This is radical!

Penny Panda: Lovely! You are such a kind and caring friend!

Martin Monkey: Cool!

Fiona Fox: Charming!

Wise Old Owl: Thank you for such a wonderful adventure Phoebe Pilot!
And remember everyone:

Phoebe Pilot: Exercise can make it easier for your brain to learn new things!

Gerald Giraffe: Wear a helmet on your bike, scooter, skates, and skateboard to protect your head from injury.

Penny Panda: Wear your seat belt in a car anytime you go anywhere. It attaches to your car seat!

Martin Monkey: Play on the ground that is soft at the playground and never push friends because they might fall.

Fiona Fox: No matter what, look both ways before crossing the street. If there is a traffic light, wait until the sign says “walk” to cross. Always remember to cross at intersections.

Wise Old Owl: Thanks for letting us come visit today, boys and girls! We hope to share another adventure with you soon! *(to other characters)* Okay BrainMinder™ Buddies, let’s go into my house. We will toast Phoebe Pilot with hot chocolate, and enjoy our new blankets! *(They all exit the stage together.)*

THE END