











Cat Claws Challenge

Claws might look like fingernails, but they are so much more! Claws are really the tip of a cat's toe bone, and cats are "digitigrades" which means they walk on their toes. Cats also use their claws to catch prey, hold and tear off food, defend themselves and climb up to perch. Claws are more like a cat's fingers! Unfortunately, some cat owner's decide to declaw their cats to prevent scratching and damage to their belongings. What would it be like if you could not use your fingers? Let's find out how a declawed cat might feel!

Materials: 2 oven mitts, list of tasks, lace-up shoe, jacket, sweater, fork or spoon, brush, plastic cup, paper, pencil

Directions: You are now a declawed cat living in a home! You must put on the oven mitts and try to perform the list of tasks below.

Task List:

-  Untie then retie a shoelace
-  Zip up a backpack
-  Put on a sweater
-  Put on and zip up a jacket
-  Turn a door handle
-  Draw a cat picture
-  Eat with a fork or spoon
-  Pick up a plastic cup
-  Brush your hair
-  (Create your own task)



Parent Tip:

Declawing cats is a painful procedure that removes the last bone in each digit of a cat's paw. After your child completes the activity, lead a discussion about alternatives to declawing such as claw caps, or redirecting scratching behaviours.



Thinking Questions:



How did it feel to when you tried to do the tasks? Did you become frustrated? Angry? How do they think a declawed cat would feel? Can you think of any other tasks that would be hard or impossible to do?