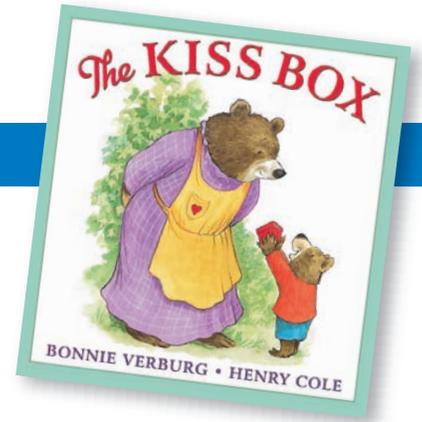


The Kiss Box

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES



Themes: Family, Love, Separation

Grade Level: Pre-K to 2nd grade

Book Brief: Mama Bear and Little Bear find a way to keep from missing each other when they're apart.

Author:
Bonnie Verburg

Illustrator:
Henry Cole

TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build

background: Does your child miss you when you're away? Talk about how each of you feels when you're separated.

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why doesn't Little Bear want Mama Bear to leave? What is he afraid of?
- ◆ What does Mama Bear promise to give him to make him feel better?
- ◆ How do the kiss boxes help Mama Bear and Little Bear?
- ◆ What helps you feel better when your parents are away?

While reading, make connections: Point out how you and your child are like Mama Bear and Little Bear. What parts of the story are like your real life?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

APPLE SMILES

Ingredients: 2 thick wedges of red apple (peel still on), peanut butter, mini-marshmallows

Spread peanut butter on one side of each slice. Put marshmallows on one of the peanut buttered sides. Put the second apple slice on top so the peanut butter holds the slices together. The peel looks like lips and the marshmallows are teeth. Make one for yourself, too, and "kiss" your child's before you eat!

OUT AND ABOUT

Every family has a different way of saying goodbye. With your child, make up your own special tradition—a certain kind of kiss, a particular way of saying "I love you," etc. Invent a new tradition for hello, too, to make your reunion that much sweeter!

HUGS AND KISSES

Materials: construction paper, yarn or string, scissors, tape or glue, markers

Make a hug to go with your kiss box!

1. On the construction paper, trace each of your child's hands. Cut them out.
2. Have your child stretch out their arms as wide as possible; cut a piece of yarn or string that length.
3. Tape or glue one end of the yarn to each handprint.
4. Let your child decorate the handprints of their "hug."



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT FAMILY

Owl Babies, Martin Waddell (2002), *My Daddy and I*, Eloise Greenfield (1991), *"Let's Get a Pup!" Said Kate*, Bob Graham (2001), *It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear*, Vicki Lansky (1997) [deals with divorce].



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