

Book: The Kissing Hand

Possible Themes: Separation, fear, grief, continuity of love

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Scholastic, 1993, 0-590-6355-7

Author: Audrey Penn

Illustrator: Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak

Recommended Age of Child: Ages 3-10

Description of Book:

This is a story about a little raccoon who is scared about leaving his familiar surroundings to go to school. The mother raccoon tells him a secret about a kissing hand that will let the raccoon take his mother's love with him no matter where he goes. She kisses the palm of his hand and anytime that he presses the kiss to his cheek he will be reminded of his mother's love.

Ouote from Book:

"Sometimes we all have to do things we don't want to do," she told him gently.

"Mrs. Racoon smiled. 'Now,' she told Chester, 'whenever you feel lonely and need a little loving from home, just press your hand to your cheek and think, Mommy loves you. Mommy loves you. And that very kiss will jump to your face and fill you with toasty warm thoughts.""

Lesson Plan Ideas:

After listening to the story, have the parent, (or whoever accompanies the child), give a chocolate kiss and a heart stamp to remind them that they are loved.

Have each child draw around their hand on a sheet of paper, put a heart sticker or sponge paint a heart in the center of the hand.

Make sugar cookies and cut out hands. Bake and put a chocolate kiss in the center as soon as the cookies come out of the oven.

Make a heart collage. Ask the kids to draw what is in their hearts.

Materials Needed: Chocolate kisses, red ink pad, heart stamp, paper, crayons, marker, sponge hearts, red paint. Sugar cookie dough or pre-made cookies. Put a red icing heart or a chocolate kiss on each cookie.