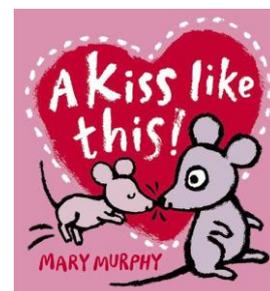


A Kiss Like This by Mary Murphy

THEME: Humour April 2013

Buzzy, bubbly,
Tall or small...
Whose is the best kiss of all?
Can you guess?



Ever wondered how owls, bumble bees or giraffes kiss? This engaging picture book explains how animals kiss with humour and warmth. Each page features a child and parent pair of animals kissing, from quick and small kisses by mice, to long and toot-tooty kisses from elephants and fuzzy buzzy bumble bee kisses.

Key Message For Parents

The Best Learning Happens In Nurturing Relationships.

- Even very young babies will try and stimulate interaction with an adult through babbling, facial expressions and gestures. It's important for parents and carers to respond back positively with sounds and gesture. These back-and-forth or "serve and return" interactions between children and the important adults in their lives are critical to the wiring of the brain, especially in the earliest years.
- Parents and carers do not need to focus on "educational activities" for a baby to thrive. Babies are designed to learn and even routine activities like feeding, changing a nappy, bathing, playing, singing, taking a walk in a pram or kisses from mum, dad or the grandparents are crucial in helping babies brains develop and grow.

Outcome One: Children have a strong sense of identity

Children feel safe, secure and supported.

Educators promote this learning when they:

- Acknowledge and respond sensitively to children's cues and signals.
- Respond sensitively to children's attempts to initiate conversations.
- Support children's secure attachment through consistent and warm nurturing relationships.

Welcome

Ask carers to write name tags for themselves and their babies. (optional). Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Sing - Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you
Good morning to you
Good morning everybody
And welcome to you!



Song

Position your infants on your knee or in your arms so that they are facing you. Let's sing to your children so that they know just how much you love them. You can rock them or bounce them gently as you sing the words.

Finish the song with big hug and a kiss

Skidamarink

Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you.
Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you.

*I love you in the morning
And in the afternoon,
I love you in the evening
And underneath the moon;
Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I love you!*

Book Introduction

Ask "Did mummy or daddy just give you a kiss? Did you give them one back"?

Today we are going to have a story about some different animals who are giving each other a kiss. I wonder if they are all the same kind of kiss, let's read to find out.

Share with parents:

Children need to feel loved, safe and secure to develop self-confidence. When you comfort your baby, respond to his/her cries and needs, talk and play with him/her then each child will know, and feel, loved and important. This is the foundation of self-confidence.

Activity Time

For a young child's brain to grow and thrive, the child needs to be loved, held, talked to, read to, sung to and allowed to explore. You might like to take some photos of the parents giving their child a kiss for a display at your library.

Song patting

- Sing your favourite song to your infant and, at the same time, pat, his/her body (tummy, back, legs, arms, or head) gently with a soft cuddly toy to the rhythm of the song.
- Always end with a snuggly kiss.
- You can also sing one line of the song and only pat one word eg: "Twinkle, twinkle, little ____ (pat the word "star" but don't sing it)."
- This game helps develop a child's sense of rhythm, a sense of anticipation and his/her listening skills.

Rock-a-bye-Baby

- Hold your child in your arms and rock him/her back and forth as you sing lullabies and other soothing songs like *Kumbaya, Rock-a-Bye-Baby, Hush Little Baby*.
- Use a rocking motion to calm your child and to develop trust between the two of you.
- After the last line of the song, hold your baby close and give him/her a big hug.



Rhymes

Round and Round the Garden

Round and round the garden,

Like a teddy bear.

One step, two steps and

Tickle you under there.

Take the child's hand in yours and trace around the palm

With your finger for the first two lines.

Walk your finger up the child's arm.

Tickle under arm.

Repeat the rhyme once or twice more, some children may want to have a turn to tickle the adult.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to borrow that relate to the theme of babies.

You Are My Special Baby by Carol Chataway & Danny Snell

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney & Anita Jeram

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox

Time For Bed By Mem Fox

Time for Bed, Isobel by David Bedford & Leonie Worthington

Itsy-Bitsy Babies by Margaret Wild & Jan Ormerod

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) **or** your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)

Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!



ADDITIONAL TIPS & SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

If time permits select one or two or the following activities to do as a group as part of your session.

Kisses: Play this simple interaction game to stimulate baby's curiosity.

- Find a comfy place to settle in with your baby.
- Say "I'm going to kiss your nose!" and then give him/her nose a kiss.
- Older babies can begin to learn the names for body parts with this simple game. Even if your baby already knows them, keep on kissing! Who doesn't love to be loved?
- Then say "I'm going to kiss your belly" and give your baby a raspberry.
- Repeat with toes, fingers, ears, chin—you've got it! Cover that baby in kisses!
- Build the suspense "I'm going to kiss yourtummy" and wait for the squeals of delight and laughter.
- For the older toddler ask: "What about the next kiss? I don't know where to put it!" Feign confusion, and see if he/she will help you out by pointing to a place on his/her body. Then say: "Oh, your tummy! What a great idea! [Kiss!] Now where should the next kiss go?"
- When the game has run its course, you can say: "Are we finished, or should I give you one last kiss?" Follow your child's lead, even if he/she declines that one last kiss.
- Swap roles: let your child become the 'kisser' and you become the 'kissee'.

Blow a kiss:

You can teach your baby to give a gift of love as you blow a kiss to him/her and encourage copying blowing a kiss by spreading open your arms and saying, "Blow me a kiss."

Extend this by

- Helping your baby copy you and blow a kiss back. Blowing kisses to each other in front of the mirror.

Lots of TLC - This game develops nurturing skills.

- Sit on the floor with your toddler and put to or three of your toddler's favourite stuffed animals on the floor with you.
- Pick up one of the stuffed toys and cuddle it in your arms. Say loving words like "Playing with you is so much fun, I love your brown fur, or I love to hug you."
- Now do the same thing to your child.
- Give your child one of the animals and ask him/her to cuddle it and give it kisses.
- Keep the game going as long as your toddler is interested. You will often notice that your toddler will be playing the game by him/herself.

Puppet Play:

- Put on a puppet and let it do the 'kissing'
- Make different sounds to assume the role of the puppet when you say "I'm going to kiss your tummy".
- Let the infant touch the puppet as it talks. Laugh and have fun.
- Let the infant play with the puppet.
- Swap roles! Ask the puppet "Can you kiss my hand"?