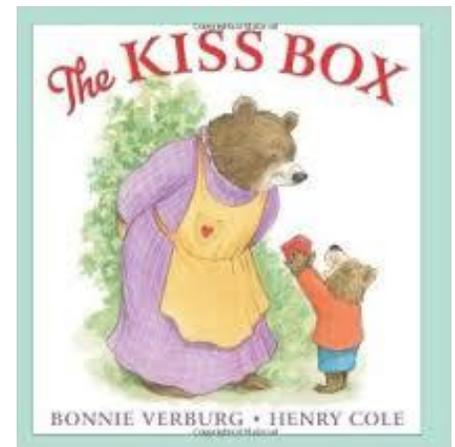


The Kiss Box

By Bonnie Verburg and Henry Cole

A reassuring story about separation and love

In this soothing love story between mother and child, Mama Bear offers various vessels to contain their love while they are apart--but none seem right. It's not until Little Bear suggests that they make each other a Kiss Box--filled with a hundred kisses--that they are able to stay connected--no matter where they are.



Whether it be an errand to the grocery store, a business trip, or the first day of school, this is a tender reminder that we are always together where it matters most: in our hearts.

Before reading the book ask the children if they have a special way to say good bye to their family. Do they have a way to remember how much they love their mommy's and daddy's? Talk about how everyone misses their parents and that you are going to read a book about how to remember the love we share with our family.

Art/Craft: Create kissing boxes for the children to bring home and share with their family. Use small boxes, baby food jars, or plastic containers to hold the kisses inside. Provide paint, stickers, markers and other crafty materials to decorate their kissing jars. Encourage the children to fill their box with kisses before giving it as a gift to their parents.

Dramatic Play: Use puppets to tell the story of the kissing box. Show healthy ways to say goodbye to our parents by giving hugs and kisses, asking questions about when the parents will be home again, and ways to pass the time while we wait for them to come back (use our kissing box, draw a picture to give to them when we see them etc.).

Games: Provide a variety of different shades of lipstick/chap stick samples for the parents and children to put on their lips, applied with their finger. Have them both kiss an index card with the child's name on them. Laminate the kiss cards and place these in a bin at a table. Allow children to match their mommies' kisses to their kisses.

Gross Motor: Go on a kissing scavenger hunt. Tell the children that you have seen lots of kisses flying around outside and give them hints as to where the imaginary kisses are hiding (I see a kiss... under the slide, by the fence, by the door etc.).

Media/music: Talk to the children about songs they can sing to remember how much they love their parents. Show one of the two videos: (Sharon Lois And Bram: Skinnamarink or Bushel and a peck).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPdV8jXAjUQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k5ZS1hwi3U>

Include Families! Cut out construction paper hearts and send one home with each child. Encourage the parents to talk with their child about all of the people that they love and miss during the day. Have the families write down the people on the hearts and bring them back to the center. Create a love quilt by connecting all of the hearts together and display it in the room. Have all of the children talk about who is written on their hearts and share with their friends why they love these people, how they show love, and how they share it.

Provide heart stickers or a heart stamp with red ink at the table when the children arrive with their caregiver. Prompt the parents to stamp their child's hand or give them a sticker. Make sure to emphasize that even if the stamp has washed off or if the sticker falls off that their parent's love is still there. Recall this activity when reading the story. Have the children give their parent a sticker/stamp the following day and again relate this to the story.