

Book Nook

Ideas for Using Books to Support Social Emotional Development



The Kissing Hand

By Audrey Penn

Chester, a young raccoon, is anxious about leaving his mother, his toys, and his friends on the first day of school. Lovingly, his mother shares a secret that will help him cope with his new world. (Ages 3-5)

Examples of activities that can be used while reading *The Kissing Hand* and throughout the day to promote social and emotional development:

- At Open House have parents paint one of their hands and leave a handprint or trace and cutout their handprint. Glue a heart in the center of the hand. Take a picture of the parents creating their kissing hand or take a picture of them with the final product. Attach the picture to the hand and hang it on the child's cubby or by the entrance door so children can see it as they arrive the first week. After the first week, take down the "kissing hands" and put them into a photo album for a class family book in the library or the cozy corner.
- Have brown socks (to resemble Chester's paw) with a heart or lips glued/sewn in the middle of the sock. The children may put on the "sock paw" and press to their cheeks when they are sad and missing their families. They may also put it on at nap when they are having a difficult time adjusting to resting at school. You could also use an iron-on heart instead.
- 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.
- Take a picture of each caregiver picking up their child in the afternoon. The picture may be used in a variety of ways. You can refer to the picture and allow the child to hold it when he/she becomes sad or is hesitant for "mom" to leave. This will reassure the child that they will come back soon. You could also use the picture with the posted daily class schedule. For those children who really have a difficult time, place the picture above the activity or routine the child will be doing when the parent will pick him/her up to go home. If needed, this may become a morning routine that the parent does with their child each day upon arrival.



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Reading the same book for several days in a row is a great way to provide opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to develop a sense of competence and confidence, which is an important part of social and emotional development. They become able to turn pages, point at and label pictures, talk about the story, predict what will happen next, learn new vocabulary words, talk about their own experiences in relation to the story and even make up their own story! Try reading *The Kissing Hand* for several days in a row and use some of the ideas, activities, and teaching opportunities listed below to enhance social and emotional skills.

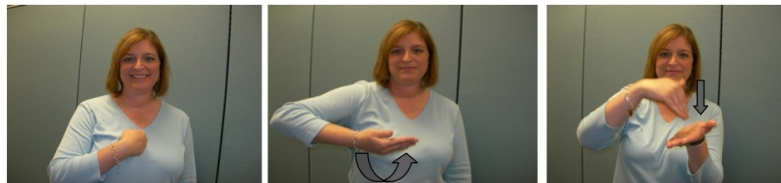
CIRCLE:

Chester Role Play: Create black raccoon masks with black felt and yarn/curved pipe cleaners. (See pattern provided.) Have the children role play the story. Extend this by allowing them to role-play different scenarios when they may feel sad, scared, lonely, friendly, and happy as they play the characters of Chester and his mother. Add additional forest animal masks for the children to play Chester's friends. What can they do as friends to help him feel better?



Story Discussion: Can you remember what Chester doesn't want to do? What would he rather do instead? What are some things that we all have to do but don't want to? How does this make us feel? Write down what the children say. Recall the story during activities that the children may not want to do, such as clean up.

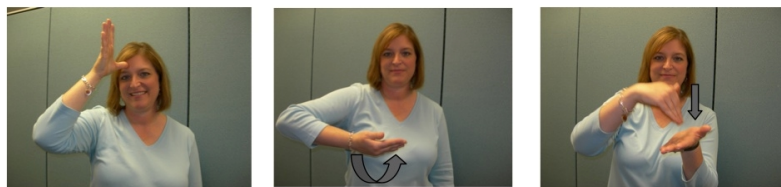
Sign Language Activity: Take pictures of children or parents signing various comforting phrases: I Love You; I'll Miss You; Mommy/Daddy will come back. Have these accessible to the parents and children during arrival. Black and white lined drawings will work too. Provide the picture as well as the phrase on laminated cards and have them accessible for the children and their parents. See below.



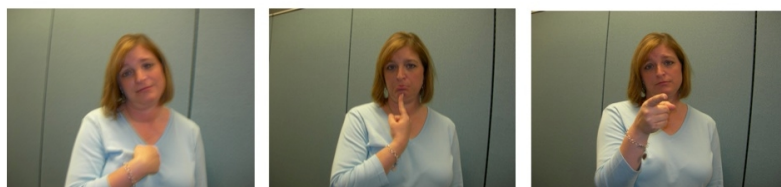
I'll come back.



Mommy will come back.



Daddy will come back.



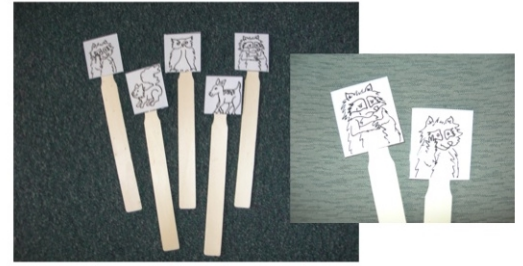
I miss you.



I love you.

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Kissing Hand Puppet Story: Using the templates provided, create character puppets on craft sticks and allow the children to hold up the matching character while reading the story.



CENTERS:

Blocks: Using the sequencing templates provided, cut out the steps to the story and glue each one to the front of a wooden block. Then allow the children to sequence the blocks in the order that the story happened either by placing the blocks in order from left to right or by stacking them vertically from top (first event) to bottom (last event). They can also use the blocks during block play and build with them.



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Kissing Hand Board Game: Using the pattern provided, children role the dice and move the number of spaces rolled. Have the game begin at the mother raccoon and end at Chester's school. Cut out different colored hearts and laminate them for the game pieces. Have special heart spaces. When children land on a heart have them pull a card and do the action on the card. Cards can have directions with pictures that include social interactions: give a hug, high five a friend, give a little wink, tell someone that they are special, blow a kiss to your friend/teacher, shake hands and say hello, kiss your brain because you are so smart, give a compliment, etc. (See pattern provided.)



Matching Mommy's Kisses: Provide a variety of different shades of lipstick/chapstick samples for the parents to put on lips (throw away once used). These are applied with their finger; then have them kiss two index cards with the child's name on them. Laminate or cover the kiss card with contact paper. Place these in a bin at table toys/manipulatives. Allow children to match their mommies' kisses or play a memory game.

STORIES AND PUPPET PLAY:

Kissing Hand Bin Activities: Create a Kissing Hand bin that the children can utilize throughout the year whenever they are feeling sad and miss their family. Provide several copies of the book as well as props and activities to accompany the book that the children can play with on their own. The bin is something that can build throughout the school year as families and teachers add to it. Some items may include a few different raccoon puppets (hand puppets, finger puppets, class made paper bag puppets, craft stick puppets and sock puppets). Request that families bring in a photo of the family or the teacher may take a picture of family members during arrival or pick up. Place the pictures in a small photo album and put it in the bin. The children will love talking about their families and sharing the pictures with the class. Once a month bring the bin to circle time and discuss different feelings of love. What does it mean to feel warm inside? How many people do we love?

TABLE ACTIVITIES:

Games, Games, and More Games: Using the templates provided create puzzles, matching/memory games, graphing activities, bingo cards, and flannel sequencing activities. (See pattern provided.)

OUTSIDE PLAY:

Just Like Chester: Have the children pretend to be at Chester's school. What types of things does Chester do that we also do? Provide the children with a variety of props and animal masks to act out the story.

Kissing Hands: Supply the children with sidewalk chalk, buckets of water and heart sponges (these can be cut from kitchen sponges). Have the children pair up and trace each other's hands onto the concrete. Have the children dip the heart sponges into the water and press the heart sponge into the center of their traced hands. What happens to the heart? Why does this happen? Experiment in full sun and shade. Expand this by allowing them to dip the colored chalk into the water and then trace their hands, what happens to the chalk? Once they are done with these activities allow them to play in the water and wash away the chalk.

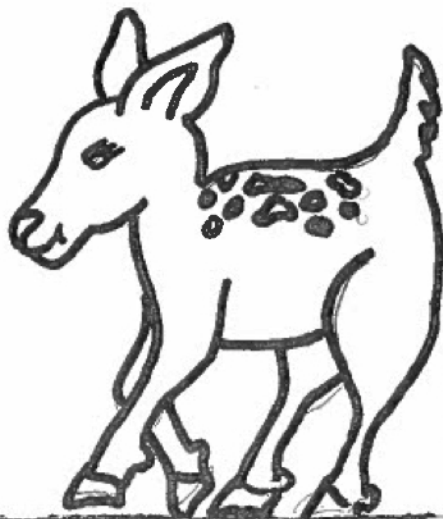
ART:

Kissing Hand Puppets: Using the templates provided create character puppets on craft sticks by having children color or paint the pictures, cut them out, and glue them to a popsicle stick. Once dry, children can then bring their puppets to circle or story and hold up the matching characters and act out the story while reading the story.

MEAL/SNACK TIME:

Kisses from Mommy: Using a heart cookie cutter and your favorite cookie recipe, make heart shaped cookies with the children. Then enjoy them at snack or after lunch. Reflect on the story while sitting around the table.

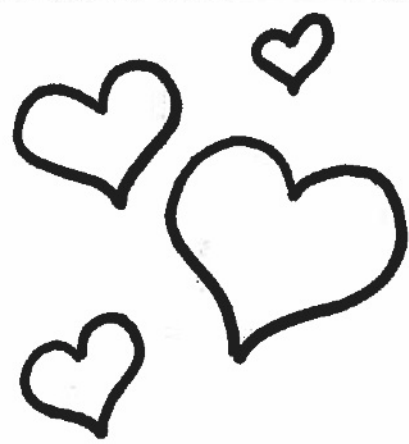
This Book Nook was developed by Rachel Lee Anderson and Rochelle Lentini



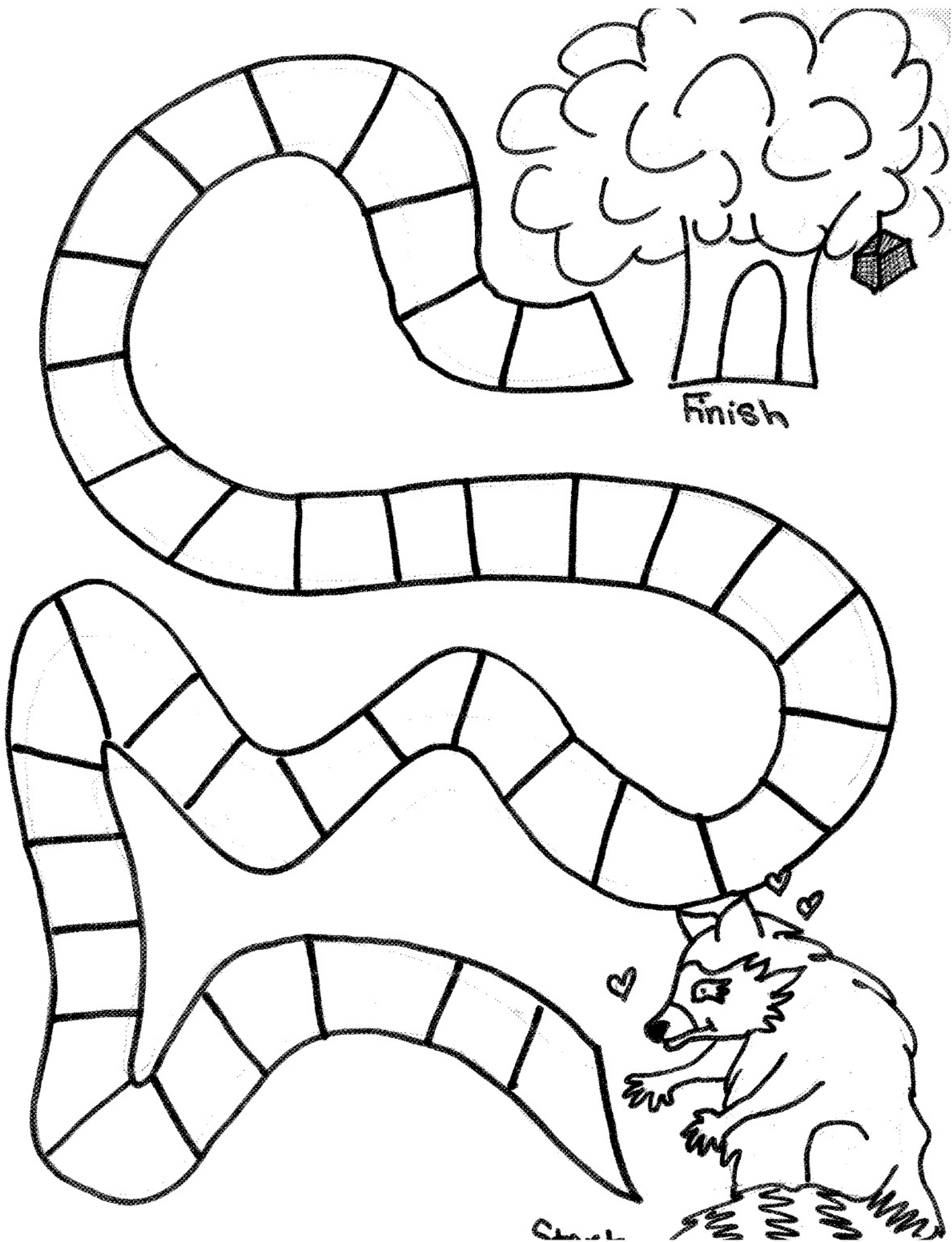
The Kissing Hand Activity Cards
Rachel Lee Anderson



The Kissing Hand Activity Card
Rachel Lee Anderson







Finish

Start