



**Family Activity Ideas**

**Ready to Read**

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# The Kissing Hand

by Audrey Penn

Here is the story of a little raccoon who confronts the first day of school and needs reassurance. Mother Raccoon finds an unforgettable way of communicating the message that everyone most needs to hear. The perfect book for any child taking the plunge into school, endearing illustrations are as soothing as the simple story.

## Discussion

After reading the book *The Kissing Hand*, discuss with the children the different feelings that Chester Raccoon felt during the story. Why was Chester sad? What made him feel better? Ask the children to think of times they've had similar feelings, and what helped them to overcome these feelings.



## Activities

- **Raccoon Paper Bag Puppets**



After coloring and cutting out raccoon patterns, glue the head of the raccoon on the bottom fold of a paper bag, creating a moveable mouth. Next glue the body of the raccoon on the middle of the paper bag, underneath the head. Finally, glue the tail of the raccoon on the back of the paper bag. After drying, the raccoons can be used as puppets to retell the story.

- **Kiss Holders**

Children can make pouches to hold their kisses so that they can keep their hands free to do other things. These kiss holders can be created by sewing together construction paper or fabric, and can be varied depending on the age and abilities of the child. Younger children can use a hole puncher and a piece of folded paper to create their pouch, and they can sew the paper together using a piece of yarn with tape at one end, leaving the yarn long enough to tie around the child's neck to create a necklace. Older children can use fabric and blunt needles to sew their pouches. Children can also use the pouches to keep a picture of their families, or paper and a pencil to write a note if they would like to. Of course, children should be carefully supervised when sewing with needles, and when they have yarn around their necks.



- **Playing School**

Children love to imitate and imagine what things are like. Set up a school, or classroom in your home for your child to experience what it would be like to be in school. Take turns role-playing with your child. One of you can be the student and the other the teacher. Use old newspapers, magazines and mail for homework assignments. If you don't have a child sized chalkboard to write lessons on, open paper grocery bags and tape them to the wall. Get out all your child's books and have story hour. These types of activities will help your child get use to the idea of going to school, especially if it is his first time!



- **Feelings Collage**



You will need: pictures from magazines and or newspapers showing people in different situations, poster board or construction paper, scissors and glue.

Directions: Talk with the children about the different kinds of feelings people can have. Have the children cut out pictures of people showing different feelings in everyday situations. Guide the children by helping them find some pictures and providing suggestions feelings they might look for.

Encourage the children to talk about he pictures they've selected and the way the people in the pictures may be feeling.

### **Other Books for Children**



*Froggy Goes to School* by Jonathan London  
*Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate  
*A Bug, a Bear and a Boy Go to School* by David McPhail  
**\*Don't forget to visit your local library!!!\***



Found a cute finger play for those of us using The Kissing Hand... Raccoon, Raccoon by Pam Miller Raccoon, raccon,(each time you kind of make a mask around your eyes with your fingers) Up in a tree, (both arms raised) Raccoon, Raccoon, You can't see me. (cover eyes) Raccoon, raccoon, I can see you (one hand on your eyes, one pointing out to imaginery raccoon) Eating fish and corn (imitate eating motions) And birds' eggs too. Raccoon, raccon, Hunting at night, (hands shade eyes as if squinting in the dark) Raccon, raccoon, Sleeps in daylight. (the usual sleeping motion we all do) Ginny