

Big Hug, Little Mouse

By Lisa Kerr

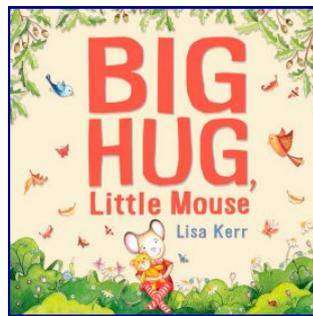
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There are so many different types of hugs and, as an expert hug-giver, Millie knows them all. There is the Hello-I'm-happy-to-see-you hug, the I'm-Sorry hug and the Goodbye hug, to name a few. But what happens when Millie loses her hug? How can she find it? Luckily, her friends are ready to help.

This is a story about giving hugs, getting hugs and making sure the people that matter most to you know they're loved.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Emotions
- Affection
- Respect
- Friends

Exploring the story:

- Millie loves lots of things. Take a poll in your group asking the children which of Millie's favourite things they love to do as well. Are any of Millie's favourite activities loved by everyone in the group? Are there any that no one loves? What are some other activities that your group love to do? Who do they like to do these things with?
- Most of all, Millie loves her friends... and hugging. There are lots of different reasons we might want to hug our family and friends. Talk with your group about the different reasons Millie and her friends hug. Are there any more reasons you can think of (a celebration hug, a hug to warm up, a feeling sick hug)?
- Not everyone likes to show affection by hugging. Did you notice that one character said "Not me!" when Millie asked "Who wants a hug?"? Which character was that? Where is that character when everyone else is hugging? Why do you think they didn't want a hug? Discuss with the group the need for respecting personal boundaries and talk about some other ways we can show affection with our family and friends instead of hugging (i.e. high fives, waving, blowing kisses, holding hands).
- Millie goes looking for her hug, but she isn't sure what it looks like. If a hug was something you could find, what might it look, smell, or feel like? What are some other things that make you feel as good as a warm hug (i.e. hot chocolate, a warm snuggly blanket, a hot bath)?
- If, like Millie, you had a whole day to hug everyone you wanted, who would you hug? Why do you want to hug them?

Exploring the illustrations:

- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:
 - ◇ How do you think Millie and her friends are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - ◇ Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - ◇ Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - ◇ Can you tell what time of day it is in the spread you have chosen? How? You could consider what the characters are doing, the weather, or the colours of the sky.