



THE KISSING HAND

BY AUDREY PENN



TIPS FOR THE READER

In this kit, you will find a wonderful children’s book and practical resources you can use to help a child develop important lifelong skills. Use these tips to engage the child in talking about the story, further developing vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. Finally, use the provided materials and **Activity Instructions** to extend and practice new skills.

THE KISSING HAND BY AUDREY PENN

In this contemporary classic, Chester Raccoon seeks love and reassurance from his mother as he ventures out into the world to attend his very first day of school.

Themes covered: managing change, feelings, relationships, going to school

Skills developed: self-regulation, cutting, tracing, counting, number recognition, vocabulary, recognition, fine motor skills

Verbal Prompts

Before reading, ask...

- * When will you all be going to kindergarten?
- * Who has ever been to a school with a big brother or big sister? Tell us about it.
- * What is exciting about going to kindergarten? What is a little scary about it? What do you do when you’re scared?

While reading...

- * As you go through the book and show children the pictures, ask them what other animals they see on the pages.
- * Ask, “Who knows why Chester would be going to school at night? When does he sleep?” (Answer: raccoons are nocturnal and sleep during the day.)
- * Ask, “How many kisses will fit on your hand?”
- * On the last page of the book is a raccoon hand showing sign language for, “I love you.” Model the sign for children and ask them to try it.

After reading...

- * Listen and move along to the song “Take a Breath” by Raffi. You can find it at this web address: <http://www.todayparent.com/blogs/tp-loves/raffis-latest-song-teaches-kids-how-to-self-regulate/>.
- * Recount the different strategies for managing feelings: take a breath, hum a song, move my arms.



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1 **PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS**

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

Help children move and sing about feelings with this activity!

Supplies You'll Need

- Copies of modified lyrics to "If You're Happy and You Know It."

Kit Assembly Instructions

Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it,

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

If you're scared and you know it take a breath.

If you're scared and you know it take a breath.

If you're scared and you know it and you really want some courage,

If you're scared and you know it take a breath.

If you're angry and you know it walk away.

If you're angry and you know it walk away

If you're angry and you know it and you really want to stop it,

If you're angry and you know it walk away.

If you're happy and you know it shout "hooray"

If you're happy and you know it shout "hooray"

If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it,

If you're happy and you know it shout "hooray"



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 1

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

Help children move and sing about feelings with this activity!

Follow These Steps

1. Find and learn the tune from the song “If You’re Happy and You Know It” on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo44GsMpg6I>
2. Sing and model the actions in this song, using the lyrics that include being scared and angry.



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2 PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

MAKING HEARTS IN HANDS

Help children recall the main point of the story with these hand hearts!

Supplies You'll Need

- Pastel-colored construction paper (at least one page per child)
- Scissors
- Pencil, crayon or marker
- Heart sticker
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.



PROP/PUZZLE/GAME 2

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

MAKING HEARTS IN HANDS

Help children recall the main point of the story with these hand hearts!

Follow These Steps

1. Give each child a piece of construction paper, a crayon, and a heart sticker.
2. Ask them to trace their hand and then cut it out. Younger children may need help from you or an older child. Once their paper hand is cut out, ask them to place a heart sticker on it and write their name on the back.
3. Encourage them to take their hand home and tell their family the story of *The Kissing Hand*.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

COLOR AND CUT OUT HEARTS

Help kids feel connected with *The Kissing Hand* with these cut out hearts!

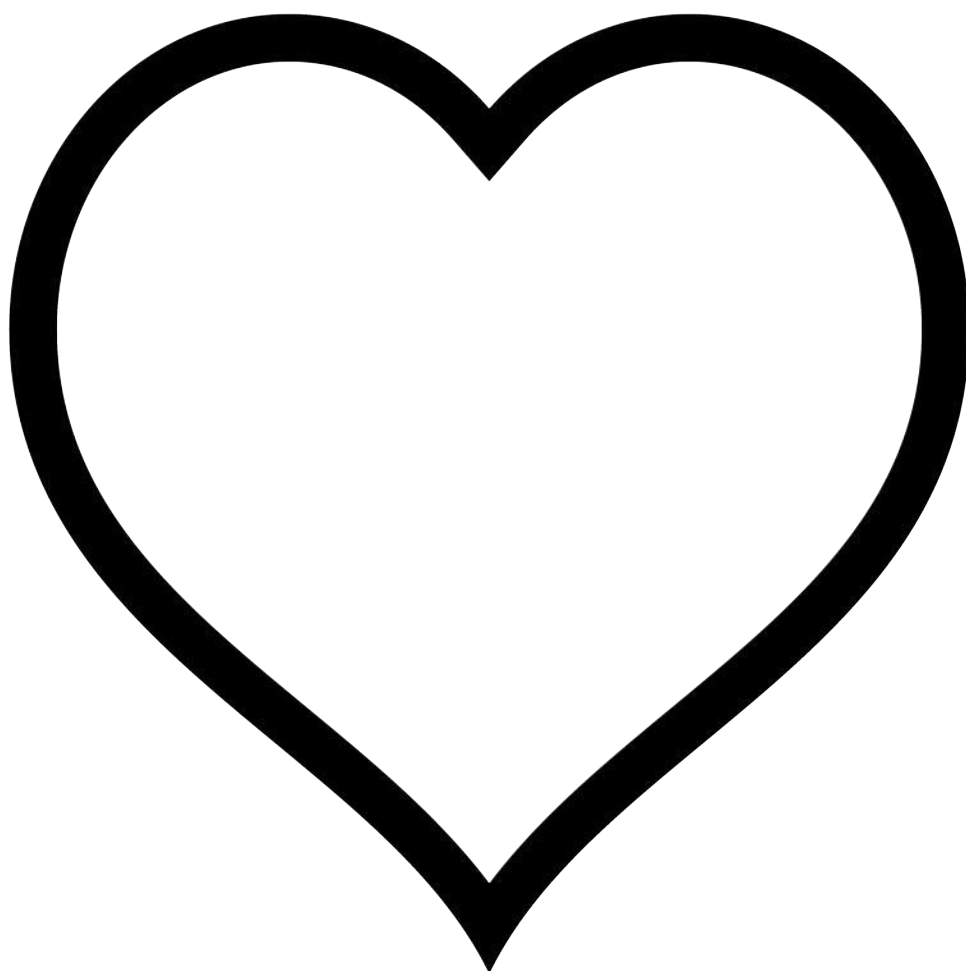
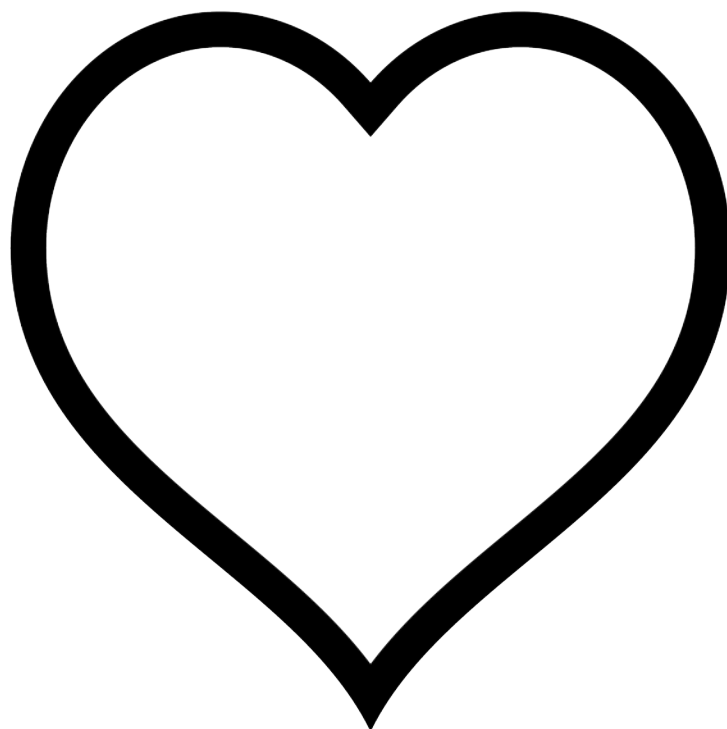
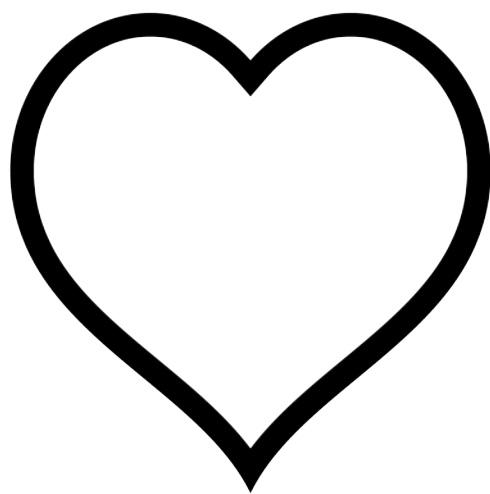
Supplies You'll Need

- Template of hearts
- Adult scissors
- Crayons
- Child scissors
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. Make 2-3 copies of the hearts template for each child.
2. Cut out hearts for half of the copies.
3. Fill a bag for each family to include heart templates, crayons, and one pair of children's scissors.
4. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1
TEMPLATE





TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 1

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

COLOR AND CUT OUT HEARTS

Help kids feel connected with *The Kissing Hand* with these cut out hearts!

Follow These Steps

1. For children ages 0-2: give them hearts and crayons so they can color the hearts.
2. For children ages 3-5: give them the page with hearts and children's scissors so they can cut out the hearts. Once they have cut them out they can also color them.
3. Encourage the children to make special hearts to give to family members and friends. Help them write names on each heart.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

MATCHING AND WRITING NUMBERS

Help children recognize numbers and practice counting with this activity!

Supplies You'll Need

- Templates of raccoons and lined paper
- Scissors
- 3x5 index card (or computer, paper, and printer)
- Marker
- Tape
- Pencil
- Large plastic bag(s) or other container

Kit Assembly Instructions

1. For each child, make a copy of the raccoons template and one copy of the lined paper.
2. Cut out each written number and each raccoon with the number under it. Mix up the pieces and place them in a bag.
3. Add a copy of the lined paper, and a pencil to the bag.
4. Include the book and **Tips for the Reader** in the kit.

1



one

2



two

3



three

4



four

5



five

6



six

7



seven

8



eight

9



nine

10



ten

TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

TEMPLATE

Handwriting practice template consisting of 10 sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY KIT 2

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

MATCHING AND WRITING NUMBERS

Help children recognize numbers and practice counting with this activity!

Follow These Steps

For 2-year olds:

Place all of the raccoons face up on a table or the floor. Ask your child to pick a raccoon and tell you what number is beside the raccoon's face. Ask them to count the raccoons and/or try to write the numbers themselves.

For 3-5-year olds:

Place all the raccoons and words on a table or the floor. Ask the child to match each number on a raccoon with the word for that number. Help them if they don't know.

Encourage them to practice writing the numbers and the words on the lined paper.