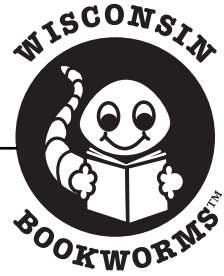


WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS™

Activity Sheet



The Kissing Hand

Written by Audrey Penn, illustrated by Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak

Chester Raccoon doesn't want to go to school—he wants to stay home with his mother. But she has a special secret that's been in the family for years—the Kissing Hand. This secret will make school seem as cozy as home.

Before you read this book, talk to your child(ren) about starting kindergarten. What do they think it will be like?

While you read this book, look at the different animals who will go to school with Chester. Point them out and ask, "What is this animal?"

Reading tip: When reading the story, be very sensitive to your child's custodial needs. If you have a child living with his or her father or other caregiver, adjust your story to be generic. Say: "And someone who loved Chester said give me your hand," instead of his mother.

After you read this book, make hand traces. Trace and cut out your child(ren)'s hands and then sponge paint, use a sticker or draw a tiny red heart in the palm of their hands.

Make a raccoon mask, headband or paper bag puppet.

Snacks: Enjoy kissing hand cookies! Make them from handprint- shaped sugar cookies with a chocolate candy kiss in the middle.

At home: Take a special trip to visit your child's kindergarten. Where is the classroom? Who is the teacher?

Check out this Web site for more The Kissing Hand fun:

<http://www.teachingheart.net/kissinghandideas.html>

Don't miss these fun books about going to kindergarten:

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten Written by Joseph Slate, illustrated by Ashley Wolff

Will I Have a Friend? written by Miriam Cohen, illustrated by Lillian Hoban

WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS™: Giving young children an opportunity to be read to and own their first new books, this project is supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting with additional funding provided by Friends of WHA-TV Inc, WAHCE and local county-based partners.