

free spirit PUBLISHING* Mom, Dad, and Daisy were moving to a new house. Daisy was going to a new school, too.

Mom and Dad said it was **Very exciting.**

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A note about sharing this book

The **Our Emotions and Behavior** series has been developed to provide a starting point for further discussion about children's feelings and behavior, in relation both to themselves and to other people.



But What If?

This story explores in a reassuring way some of the typical worries that children may experience. It also points out that different things worry different people and that not everyone worries about the same things.

The book aims to encourage children to have a developing awareness of their own needs, views, and feelings, and to be sensitive to the needs, views, and feelings of others.

Picture story

The picture story on pages 22 and 23 provides an opportunity for speaking and listening. Children are encouraged to tell the story illustrated in the panels: Levi is worried about going to his friend's birthday party. He is worried that he won't know many people. But he soon sees his friend and has fun joining in with the party games.

How to use the book

The book is designed for adults to share with either an individual child or a group of children, and as a starting point for discussion.

The book also provides visual support and repeated words and phrases to build confidence in children who are starting to read on their own.

Before reading the story

Choose a time to read when you and the children are relaxed and have time to share the story.

Spend time looking at the illustrations and discussing what the book may be about before reading it together.

After reading, talk about the book with the children

• What was the story about? Have any of the children ever moved? How did they feel? Were they worried about living in a new neighborhood? Were they worried about sleeping in a different bedroom? Were they worried that they might find it hard to make new friends, and were they upset at leaving old friends behind? Invite the children to tell you how they resolved their worries and who helped them.

Ask if any of their worries turned out to be true. Also ask if they had worried about any things that did not happen. Encourage the children to talk about their experiences.

- Extend this discussion by talking about other things that worry the children. Take the opportunity to point out that different things worry different people and that not everyone worries about the same things.
- Now talk about things that might worry adults. Again, point out that adults worry about different things. Similarly point out that adults also worried about things when they were children. If appropriate, illustrate this with an example from your own childhood. Examples might be feeling worried about going to school for the first time or about trying a new activity.
- Look at the end of the story again. Daisy felt much better after she shared her worries with Grandpa. Talk about the benefits of sharing a worry with someone children know and trust.
- Look at the picture story. Discuss with children Levi's worries about going to the party. What is he worrying about? How does seeing his friend help him overcome his worries?
- Suggest that children draw pictures of people they would confide in if they felt worried.



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