

Kisses / by Ruthi Keenan

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Where did all the colorful kisses go? Last night Mommy gave her daughter dozens of warm, loving kisses. Where have they gone? A heartwarming story about a mother and daughter searching for lost kisses, and discovering a treasury of love.

"[When] a man [...] lights one candle with another, the former candle burns while the latter loses nothing" (Bamidbar Rabba, 13)

What do you do with a kiss? Give it or get it? Both!

Kisses are a form of expressing feelings – love, intimacy, warmth. When we shower someone with love, we do not end up with less love, but rather gain more of it. When we make another person happy, we too are happier.

Childrearing is founded on love, warmth, and security. More than any other gift, parents can give their children love – a love that connects parents to children in "thin, strong ties".



Family Activities



It's fun to read a story and act it out: ask your child to close their eyes, and kiss the tip of their nose at the beginning of the story. As the story progresses, get kisses and hug each other, just like they do in the story.



Once you have read the story several times, your child will know the rhymes and be able to complete the sentences on their own:

נְשִׁיקָה בְּצֶבַע תִּכְלֶת – מֵאָחוּרֵי הַ... דָּלֶת

נְשִׁיקָה סְגֻלָּגֶלֶת – מֵרֵב צְחוּק מֵת... גִּלְגֻּלֶת.



You may want to paint your lips and create kiss-shaped stamps on a sheet of paper, much like the inner cover of the book. Once you have a page full of kisses, you could cut them out, and use them to decorate your child's bedroom.



When Mommy tries to collect all the kisses that blew away, they disappear as soon as she catches them. You may enjoy blowing soap bubbles at bath-time, and trying to catch them (hint: soapy hands make it easier to catch bubbles without bursting them).



And in the morning, when your child wakes up all warm and sweet, kiss their nose – it's a sure recipe for a wonderful day!



Enjoy reading and discussing the book together!

