

EVEN FIREFIGHTERS HUG THEIR MOMS

by Christine Kole MacLean

Who has time for hugs when he's busy fighting fires, arresting criminals, rescuing people from boats, and rocketing off to Mars? This boy and his little sister are *seriously* at play, pretending to be all kinds of heroes.

But moms need a little love now and then. "Even firefighters hug their moms," she keeps reminding them. Just when it looks as though Mom will never get a cuddle, her son gives in—and enjoys it just as much as she does.

Christine Kole MacLean's playful text and Mike Reed's imaginative and warm illustrations show reluctant huggers and busy little ones that maybe, sometimes, it's okay to hug your mom (just like firefighters do!)



Art © 2002 by Mike Reed

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE PROJECTS

Verbal/ Linguistic

Pretend you are a news reporter and report on one of the incidents in the story. For example, how did the fire get started? Interview the firefighters who rescued the family. How is the family doing now? Report live from the scene! Use a microphone. Maybe your mom or dad can be your camera crew and capture the news live!

Logical/Mathematical

Count how many times these things appear in the book:

- pink pig
- teddy bear
- pacifier
- purple dinosaur
- American flag
- Radio



Spatial/Visual

Precut circular and rectangular shapes from construction paper. Have kids glue the shapes onto a piece of construction paper to look like a fire truck. Add yarn or string for the fire hose and use straws or toothpicks to make a ladder.

Body/ Kinesthetic

Act out all the scenes from the book as your mom reads them aloud. Then, invent your own scene in the job that you want to do when you grow up.

Musical/Rhythmic

Sing these fun songs, or make up a new one on your favorite job. Sing to the tune: "I'm A Little Teapot"

*I am a fireman dressed in red.
With my fire hat on my head.
I can drive the fire truck, fight fire too,
And help make things safe for you.*

Sing to the tune: "3 Blind Mice"

*9-1-1, 9-1-1,
Help is on the way, help is on the way.
If I need help, I know what to do,
I can call the police and the firehouse, too,
It makes me feel safe when I know what to do, dial
9-1-1.*

In the Kitchen:

Make these yummy building logs! You'll need:

- 1/3 cup peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 cup crushed corn flakes
- 1/2 cup quick oatmeal
- 1/4 cup dry milk
- chocolate sprinkles
- measuring cups and spoons, bowl, wooden spoon, baking sheet

Place the peanut butter and honey in a mixing bowl and mix well with the wooden spoon. Add the corn flakes, oatmeal and milk to the peanut butter mixture and blend well. Pinch off a small amount of the dough mixture. Roll the small amount of dough into 2-inch-long by 1/2-inch-wide logs. Place the sprinkles on the baking sheet. Roll the logs in sprinkles. Stack the logs on a plate on top of one another in a building formation. Serve the building as a snack!

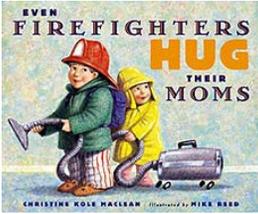
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visit the author's website: www.christinekolemaclean.com

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MORE FUN STUFF!

LITERACY ACTIVITIES



- With pre-writers and emergent readers/writers, have an adult write down their answers to the following questions and compile them on a poster to share. More advanced writers can answer these in a journal or on individual pages to make a book.
 - ☑ **What is a hero? Or, Who are your heroes?**
 - ☑ **If you could be a superhero, what superhero skill would you want to have?**
- Have children draw a picture of a real-life hero.
- Have older children design their own superhero emblem.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Dramatic play gives children a chance to practice **social roles** such as **turn-taking, conversation, negotiation**, and even good **manners**. It helps children develop **empathy** for others when they experience being on the giving *and* receiving ends of different behaviors. And it helps kids practice **sequencing** (the steps involved in a particular activity), an important skill for reading. You can make dramatic play kits, or “prop boxes,” out of materials you probably already have on hand. Here are some kit ideas for the pretend play that happens in *EVEN FIREFIGHTERS HUG THEIR MOMS*.

FIREFIGHTING

- Felt or tissue paper fires to fight
- Old garden hoses cut into small sections (so kids don't swing them); a borrowed vacuum hose works fine at home
- Raincoats
- Rubber boots
- 2-liter plastic pop bottles, duct-taped together and with duct tape straps, for oxygen tanks
- Large cardboard box to make a fire engine

POLICE OFFICER

- Dark blue button shirts
- Foil-covered cardboard badges
- Tool belt with walkie-talkies and notepads
- Stuffed dogs
- Large cardboard box to make a police cruiser
- Bells for a siren
- Toy microphone for a loudspeaker
- Tape on the floor to designate a “jail” box. (Be sure that kids take turns being officers and criminals!)

EMT

- Toilet paper, ace bandages, or fabric scraps
- Empty toiletry bottles to treat wounds
- A blanket or piece of cardboard for a stretcher
- Doctor kit toys
- Empty syringes, tongue depressors, and face masks
- Dolls or stuffed animals to treat
- Small blankets for patients
- A teddy bear for scared patients
- Clipboard, paper & pen for medical notes

TRAIN CONDUCTOR

- Small chairs or pillows to line up for the train
- A bell or whistle
- A sport jacket (big or small) and cap, pocket watch
- Pretend train tickets and a map
- Small suitcases
- Stuffed animal or doll passengers

CONSTRUCTION

- Plastic construction hats
- Toy tools (or wooden spoons, spatulas, etc. from around the house)
- A tool belt, or a regular belt with room to tuck in tools
- Cardboard boxes of varying sizes, taped shut to use as bricks, or cardboard building bricks, or wooden blocks, or sofa cushions
- Sheets to drape over furniture for walls
- Old blueprints (or make your own)
- Large plastic dustpans for pretend bulldozers

GARBAGE COLLECTOR

- Two large cardboard boxes for a truck and collection trailer
- Button-up workshirts/uniforms
- Boots, gloves
- Small plastic garbage cans or brown paper sacks
- Toy “garbage”
- Recyclable materials and sorting bins or laundry baskets

ASTRONAUT

- Plastic buckets/bowls for hats
- Rubber dishwashing gloves
- Boots
- Decorated grocery paper bags with holes for arm and head, for spacesuits (or snowsuits!)
- Large boxes for a spaceship
- Stars and planets to hang
- Space rocks spray-painted a special color to gather and sort
- Exploration tools: real ones or plastic kitchen tools

