

SEPTEMBER



Mercer Mayer

Mercer Mayer has published over 300 books. He likes to write stories about things that happened to him when he was a little kid. He and his wife, Gina, live in New York and write the Little Critter and write the Little Critter stories together. You can learn more about Mercer at: www.littlecritter.com



OTHER BOOKS BY MERCER MAYER:

Just Me
Bubble Bubble
This is My Family
A Monster Followed Me to School
Hiccup
Me, Too



- 😊 Approaches to Learning through Play
- 📖 Creative Thinking and Expression
- 🍏 Health, Wellness and Physical Development
- 📚 Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening
- 📐 Mathematics Thinking and Expression
- 👥 Partnerships for Learning: Families, Learning Environments and Communities
- 🔍 Science Thinking and Technology: Exploration, Inquiry and Invention
- 🧠 Social Emotional Development
- 🌍 Social Studies Thinking: Connecting "Me" to My Community and the Larger World

I Was So Mad

Little Critter never gets to do anything he wants-even tickling the goldfish and keeping frogs in the bathtub are off limits. His family finally makes him "so mad" that he decides to run away.



- 🐸 Ask your child to tell you about a time when he/she was feeling angry, mad or upset. What did they do to feel better?
- 😄 When driving in the car or riding on a bus with your child, play the "What if" game. For example, "What if you tried to get out of your car seat? What if you put your arm out of the window? What might happen?"
- 👉 Have your child organize a non-competitive game in the neighborhood. Organize a kickball game and do not keep score.
- 👉 Little Critter did not make some good choices in this book. Describe a time when children might have to make a choice (choosing to share a toy or making a healthy food choice) and have the child draw a picture of a good choice.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ANGER AND RUNNING AWAY...

How to Take the Grrr Out of Anger by Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisoskiss
 Mad Isn't Bad: A Child's Book About Anger (Elf-Help Books for Kids)
 by Michaelene Mundy and R. W. Alley
 Polly's Running Away Book by Frances Thomas and Sally Gardner

Just Me and My Puppy

Little Critter learns all about taking care of a pet.

- 👉 With your child, talk about different types of pets that people have. Talk about what pets need and how people take care of pets. Visit a pet store.



- 😊 Visit the Humane Society. Make a list of how to take care of a pet.
- 👉 If your child does not have a pet, help out a neighbor, friend or relative who does have a pet for an afternoon or evening. Have your child feed, water and take care of the pets needs.
- 👉 Play "Who's my Baby?" Name an animal and ask your child to tell you the names of the baby. For example, dog-puppy, cat-kitten. Then ask your child to name the adult and you name the baby.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PETS...

Puppies! Puppies! Puppies! by Susan Meyers and David Walker
 The Pigeon Wants a Puppy by Mo Willems
 Taking Care of Pets by Susan Ring

Just A Mess

It's time for Little Critter to clean his room.

- 😄 Give your child various "throw away" items that are found in your house, such as paper towel rolls, old mail, lids, etc. Ask him or her to arrange the items into a sculpture or to create a masterpiece. Encourage him/her to describe what she/he made.
- 👉 Help your child to practice following directions through acting out situations. For example, ask your child to follow a simple direction such as "put away your toys". Then discuss what would happen if the directions weren't followed, such as the toys being taken away, etc.
- 👉 Give your child materials to imitate you doing daily chores like cooking or cleaning. Talk about what you are doing.
- 👉 Explain to your child how to change from one activity to another. Give your child warnings when getting ready to do a new activity. For example, "In five minutes we will have to clean up so we can get dinner ready."

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT MESSSES...

Monster Messi! by Margery Cuyler and S.D. Schindler
 Mouse Mess by Linnea Asplind Riley
 Don't Want To Clean My Room: A Mess of Poems About Chores
 by Hope Vestergaard



I Am Helping

Little Critter helps out around the house.

- 👉 Little Critter helps members of his family. Draw a picture of how you and your child help each other.



- 😊 Have your child help you sort laundry by colors. Ask your child to put the clean laundry in the basket and assist in putting the clothing away.
- 😄 Talk about how your family's schedule has changed since kindergarten started. Have the child make a list of how she/he will have to help get himself or herself ready. For example, have your child put out his clothing for the next day, brush his teeth, etc.
- 😊 Ask your child help your plan for a family meal. Allow him to find the items in the grocery store, help cook and set items on the table and clean up.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT MAKING BREAD...

The Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand by Stan and Jan Berenstain
 Helping Out by George Ancona
 Herman the Helper by Robert Kraus, Jose Aruego, and Ariane Dewey