

JOEY RUNS AWAY

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By Jack Kent (Simon & Schuster)

Themes: Animals/Relationships/Growing Up

Grade Level: Pre-K-2

Running Time: 8 minutes, animated

SUMMARY

JOEY RUNS AWAY is the story of a little kangaroo who lives in his mother's pouch. The pouch is referred to as "Joey's room," furnished and filled with all of Joey's belongings. When Joey's mother demands that he clean his room, Joey decides that it would be easier to run away. While Joey looks for a new home, various animals investigate Joey's mother's pouch as a possible new home for themselves. The end of the story finds Joey in a mail carrier's pouch, as unhappy with this new home as with all of the others he tries. The mail carrier passes Joey back to his mother, and Joey returns to the safety and contentment of his natural home. After his journey when Joey's mother suggests he clean his room, Joey doesn't hesitate!

OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the ways animals care for their young
- Children will learn about the importance of helping at home.
- Children will investigate parent-child relationships.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book JOEY RUNS AWAY with children.

Have children describe their bedrooms. Ask:

- What special things do you keep in your room?
- What do you and your friends do in your room when

they come to visit?

Draw a picture of your room or Joey's room.

Ask children if they have ever felt like running away from home. Then ask:

What happened to make you feel as if you wanted to run away from home?

What happened to make you feel better?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the way Joey acts in the beginning of the story when his mother asks him to clean his room. Then ask:

- How does Joey's mother feel when she discovers that he is missing?
- How does she feel when other animals try her pouch as a home?
- How do Joey and his mother feel at the end of the story when Joey is back in his pouch again?
- What things happen to make you upset with your mother or father?

Try making up a different ending to the story. What if Joey finds a room that he likes better than his own room? What if he doesn't have to clean it?

Discuss with children the chores they are sometimes asked to do at home. Ask:

- How do you feel about doing these chores?
- What do you do to help yourself enjoy the chores?
- What chores does your mother or father do especially for you?

Draw the outline of a large kangaroo, including the pouch,

on a large piece of craft paper. Display the kangaroo on a classroom wall. Then cut out a variety of pictures from magazines, including kitchen appliances, toys and animals. Begin the activity by attaching one of the pictures to the kangaroo near the pouch. Make it appear as if the object is popping out of the pouch. Then have children create stories about the kangaroo and the object in the pouch. Help children by asking questions such as:

- How did the object get there?
- What happens to the object as it pops out of the pouch?
- How did the kangaroo feel about carrying the object around?

Continue the activity by changing the pictures you attach to the kangaroo. Finish by displaying the children's stories beside the kangaroo.

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