

Pouch

By David Ezra Stein

This is a funny story about a baby kangaroo experiencing his independence. Feelings of excitement and fear are the same toddlers feel when they experience something new. The baby kangaroo explores the world outside of his mama's pouch. Mom is always ready for him when he needs to come back.

New words and sounds your child might learn:

pouch, kangaroo, pasture, hollow, bee, rabbit, bird, world.

Before:

- Explain to your toddler what a kangaroo and pouch are.
- Tell your toddler Joey is not the baby kangaroo's name. All baby kangaroos are called joeys, like all baby cats are called kittens.

During:

- Read the words on the page and pause when you see the word "pouch" to create suspense.
- Talk about how the baby kangaroo feels when he hops and how he feels when he sees something new or different.
- Yell the word "pouch" with your child when the kangaroo gets scared.
- Talk about why he is afraid of the bee, rabbit and bird.
- Share what your child can do if she sees something new or different and is afraid.

After:

- Is your child hesitant to separate from you? Use the word "pouch" as a code word for when your toddler is scared. Let her know it is okay to come back and get a hug.

Try some of the ideas above. Continue to use your own imagination during book play, too. Have fun with the book and enjoy your time together.

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