



Notes From Mom

By Lynn Salem and Josie Stewart

16 pages/98 words

Available in Spanish



Synopsis

Through a note each day of the week, a working mom communicates with her daughter, an after-school activity. This book provides a model for real-life writing purposes.

Before the First Page

Provide several notepads for students to write notes to their mothers. Encourage the students to close their notes in a variety of ways. Reinforce the language of the book, i.e., **hugs**, **kisses**.

Set-Up for Success

Review the days of the week. Give a detailed introduction on pages 1–3, noting that the girl is leaving for school on page 1 and returning from school to find a note on page 3. Encourage the students to look through the book to see the notes that mom wrote. Discuss the many different words used to close a note or letter.

Independent Reading – Students may need support with **Hugs**, page 6; **Kisses**, page 8.

Guided Reading – Review the suggestions for *Independent Reading*. Include support for **raining**, page 12.

Learning about Print

- Directionality on multiple lines of text.
- Punctuation marks – period, comma, colon.
- Environmental print – **PLEASE DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS.**, sign on page 16.
- Contractions – **it's**, **let's**, **isn't**.
- Unique features of handwritten text.

Key Words and Phrases

she wrote days of the week

Learning about Words

The vocabulary in this book provides opportunities to introduce, practice or enrich the following:

- Locating **day** as part of the days of the week.
- Learning the days of the week through the use of a chart or calendar.
- Using magnetic letters to build new words – **she, he, be, me, we**.
- Word family – **day**.

Assessment Opportunities

The following problem-solving behaviors can be observed and recorded:

- Using 1-1 correspondence on varied text.
- Attempting to self-correct to maintain meaning.
- Using pictures as a source of information.
- Retelling the details of this story or relating it to a personal experience.
- Using word segments to solve unfamiliar words.

After the Last Page

- Conduct a short lesson on note writing. Include the greeting, body of letter and the closing.
- Write notes to friends and deliver the notes to their school mailboxes.
- Plan a schedule, include one activity for each day of the week. Example: On Monday, Dad takes me to Scouts. On Tuesday, I go to soccer practice.

- Make a list of home chores and responsibilities.
- Write responses to the notes Mom wrote in the book.
- Discuss the need to follow directions. Use the notes that Mom wrote in the book as examples.



Throughout the Day

Math

- Practice telling time on the hour by writing a schedule for the day.

Problem-Solving

- Predict what Mom might write on Sunday. Write the note.
- Create an itinerary for Saturday's trip to the zoo.

Social Studies

- * Keep a diary about daily school activities.
- Invite parents to share about their careers.

Art

- Design letterhead for writing notes.
- Design personal stationery.

The Home Connection

- Create a pen pal system with a cousin, grandparent or faraway friend.
- Write notes to one another. Put them in a lunch box, briefcase or on the refrigerator.
- Create food-shaped paper. Write a grocery list using this paper.

* Show What You Know – a document to keep

Activities marked with an asterisk (*) are appropriate for assessment.

Read on...

Alexander, Sue. *Dear Phoebe*.

Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Carle, Eric. *Today Is Monday*.

Caseley, Judith. *Dear Annie*.

Cummings, Pat. *Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon*.

James, Simon. *Dear Mr. Blueberry*.

Parker, Nancy Winslow. *Love, from Aunt Betty*.

Stewart, Josie, and Lynn Salem. *I Can Write. Can You?*

Stewart, Josie, and Lynn Salem. *Notes to Dad*.

Williams, Vera. *Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe*.