

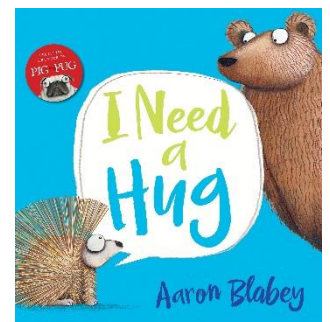


I Need a Hug

Written and illustrated by
Aaron Blabey

1 – Introducing the book

- Explain that this story is called 'I need a hug'. When do you need a hug? Agree that usually it's when you've hurt yourself, or had a bad day, or had an argument with a friend. What else helps you to feel better when you're upset?
- Look closely at the front cover of the story, and ask children what they think the problem will be. Does the bear look like he wants to hug the porcupine? What other animals wouldn't you want to hug? Why? Can you think of any animals that *are* nice to cuddle? Invite children to talk about their pets.
- Read through the story. Why does the porcupine think the other animals have all changed their minds about hugging him? What is the real reason they were running towards him? How does he feel at the end? Why?



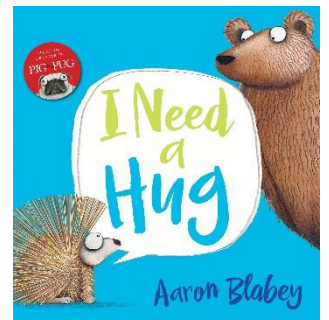


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2 – Hugs ahoy!

- Ask children to come and sit in a circle and then ask them to pass a smile round the circle. How does it make you feel when someone smiles at you? Now challenge them to pass a squeeze round the circle, reminding them to be gentle!
- Agree that not everyone feels comfortable with being hugged, or only likes to be hugged by certain special people like mum or dad, and that we have to be respectful of how others feel. Are the other animals respectful to the Porcupine who wanted a hug? How could they let him know they don't want to hug him without being unkind? Can you think of other ways apart from a hug that you can show someone that you're a good friend and cheer them up when they are feeling down?





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3 – How to be a friend

- Present children with some everyday friendship problems that they will have to learn to deal with, and ask them to talk about each scenario in small groups. What could you do to solve the problem? Share ideas together. Example scenarios might be:
 - you want to play with a toy that someone else has been playing with for a while
 - you want your friend to come and do an activity with you, but they don't want to
 - you want to join a group of people who are already playing a game, but you feel a bit shy
 - the person you want to play with always wants to play with someone else
 - you ask if you can join in a game, but the other children say no.

- Next, brainstorm together the qualities of a good friend, such as being able to say sorry, being kind, sharing and taking turns, making you laugh, asking how you are etc. Write these in the centre of a large yellow circle. Now help the children to draw round their hands on a piece of paper, to decorate the hand they have drawn and to cut it out. Stick these down as the petals around the edge of the circle to form a 'friendship flower' display. Refer to this when there are any disputes in the classroom, and use it to support friendship problem-solving.

