

Family Resiliency Reading Guide

THE KOALA WHO COULD

BY RACHEL BRIGHT

After reading *The Koala Who Could* with your child, use this reading guide to continue the conversation around resiliency at home. In this guide, you will find a description of how this book relates to Resiliency Characteristics, literacy tips, and sample conversation starters for you and your child.

SYNOPSIS

Kevin the Koala preferred not to move or change. He liked being in his tree where he was safe and for every day to be the same. Kevin's animal friends tried to encourage him to come down from his tree and join them to have fun, but Kevin preferred his normal routine. One day everything changed, and Kevin learned that sometimes change is not as bad as it seems.

LESSONS IN RESILIENCY

- ▶ Kevin's animal friends listened and understood when he did not want to leave the safety of his home, which is an example of **empathy**. After Kevin's animal friends listened to his concerns, they did not pressure him to leave the tree but continued to invite him to join them.
- ▶ When Kevin repeatedly would not join them, they still did not give up on him. His animal friends were there for him when his tree was falling and encouraged him. They all showed him understanding and care even though he tried to push them away.
- ▶ Kevin learned to let his friends support him when he needed them and be honest with them about his fears. Kevin's animal friends recognized that he needed support and showed him **empathy**.

RESILIENCY CHARACTERISTIC



Empathy

Understanding others' thoughts, feelings and actions.

RESILIENCY CONVERSATION STARTERS:



Kevin's animal friends showed him kindness and understanding. Have your child identify how these interactions impacted Kevin and helped him overcome his fear.



Have your child share ways he or she can support family and friends in need of support or encouragement.



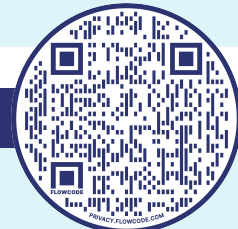
Discuss with your child a time he or she had to be honest with a friend in a difficult situation. What helped the conversation to go well?

LITERACY TIP

You can support your child's literacy development by reading every day together! While you are reading with your child, point out:

- ▶ The title, author and illustrator of the book;
- ▶ How you read from the left side of the page to the right;
- ▶ Punctuation – for example, a comma is a sign to pause for a beat and a period means a sentence is complete; and
- ▶ Any special features, such as illustrations, bold text, table of contents, page numbers, etc.

When you model what good readers do, your child will develop the habits of a successful reader!



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