

Check It Out Column for week of May 9-16

Mom-umental Tales

By Kathy Stutzman

Mother's Day is a special day to me. Not because of any recognition I may receive as a mother but it is a reminder of the fact that I am a grandmother. While my own mother is now deceased, my two daughters, Brooke and Rene, are mothers themselves. I want them to know how much I appreciate the mothers they are for my three energetic grandsons, Nathan, Benjamin and Tommy. As young mothers, I have seen them juggle working outside the home or playing chauffeur to different sports or school events. I appreciate the sacrifices they make daily in their attempts to be the best mommy they can be.

I have watched them as they read *Winnie the Pooh* and *Pat the Bunny* with my grandsons and it brings me back to the times when I read those same books to them as children. Nowadays, there's an even bigger selection to choose from and the following books should be the perfect thing for a young mother in her journey of crayoned cards and breakfasts in bed.

What Will Mommy Do When I Am At School? Delores Johnson. A young girl turns her own fears about exchanging her well-known daily routine for the world of school into concern for her mother. "As long as I've known my mom, I've never left her alone," she muses. A creative perspective on a child entering school.

Mommy's Lap. Ruth Horowitz. PreS-Gr 1-- Sophie's quiet times on her mother's lap are no longer the warm, cuddly moments that they used to share. Mother is having a new baby, and there is no room for Sophie to sit and be rocked or read to right now. A reassuring picture book for those children needing this kind of story at just such a time.

Waiting for Baby. Harriet Ziefert. A delightful story about the anticipation of a new arrival. Expectant parents will want to read it with their children, and soon-to-be older siblings.

I Love Mommy. Liz Boyd. PreS. A frog and her mother build forts, go to the park, read, and snuggle together. Illustrates the simple shared moments treasured by mother and child. A perfect token for mom's special day!

Mommy Hugs. Ann Gutman. Ages 1-4. This simple board book features a variety of animals and celebrates the affection between mothers and children. In Hugs, "Mommy polar bear hugs her cub with a tickle."