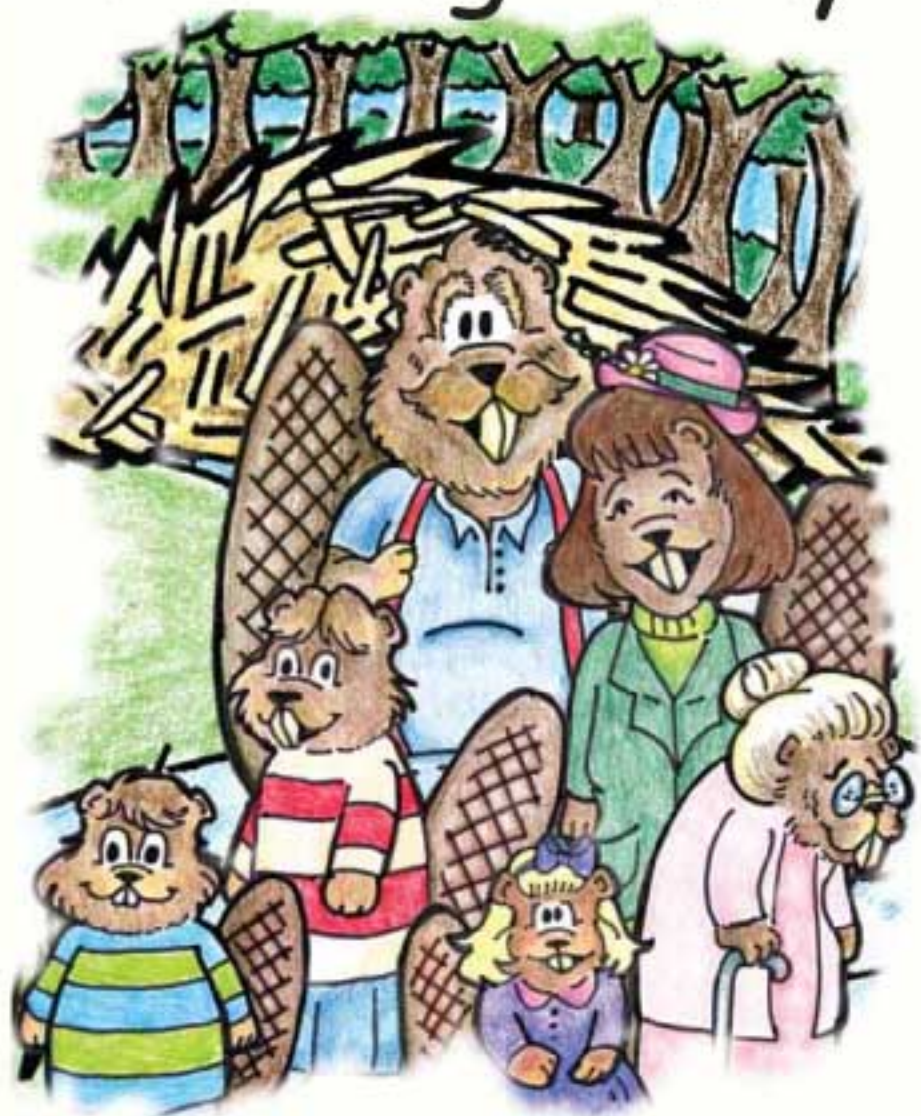


Joey's Mom is Going Away



Written by Nathalie Connolly
Illustrated by Patt Devine


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About the Author

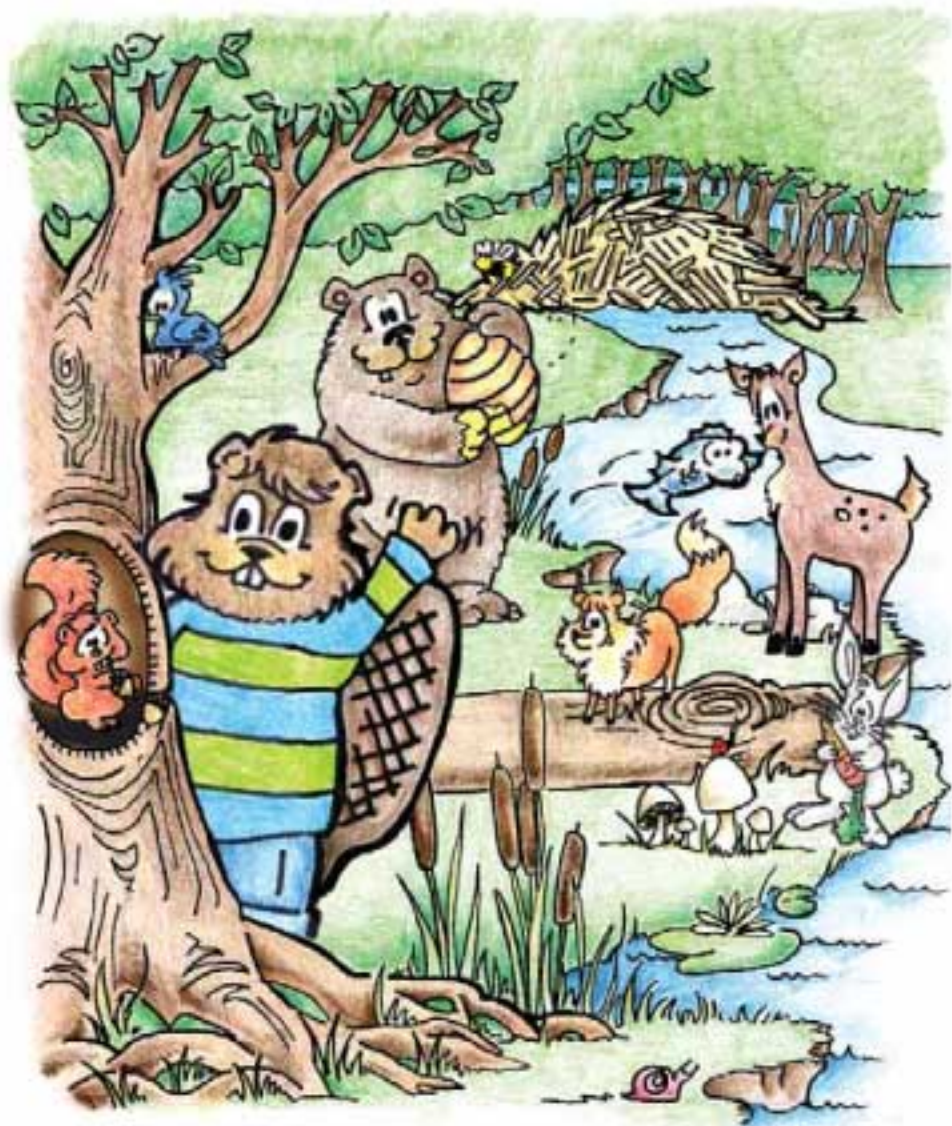
Nathalie Connolly was a counsellor on Director Military Family Services' Mission Information Line, she is a military spouse and has experience as a day-care coordinator and pre-school teacher.



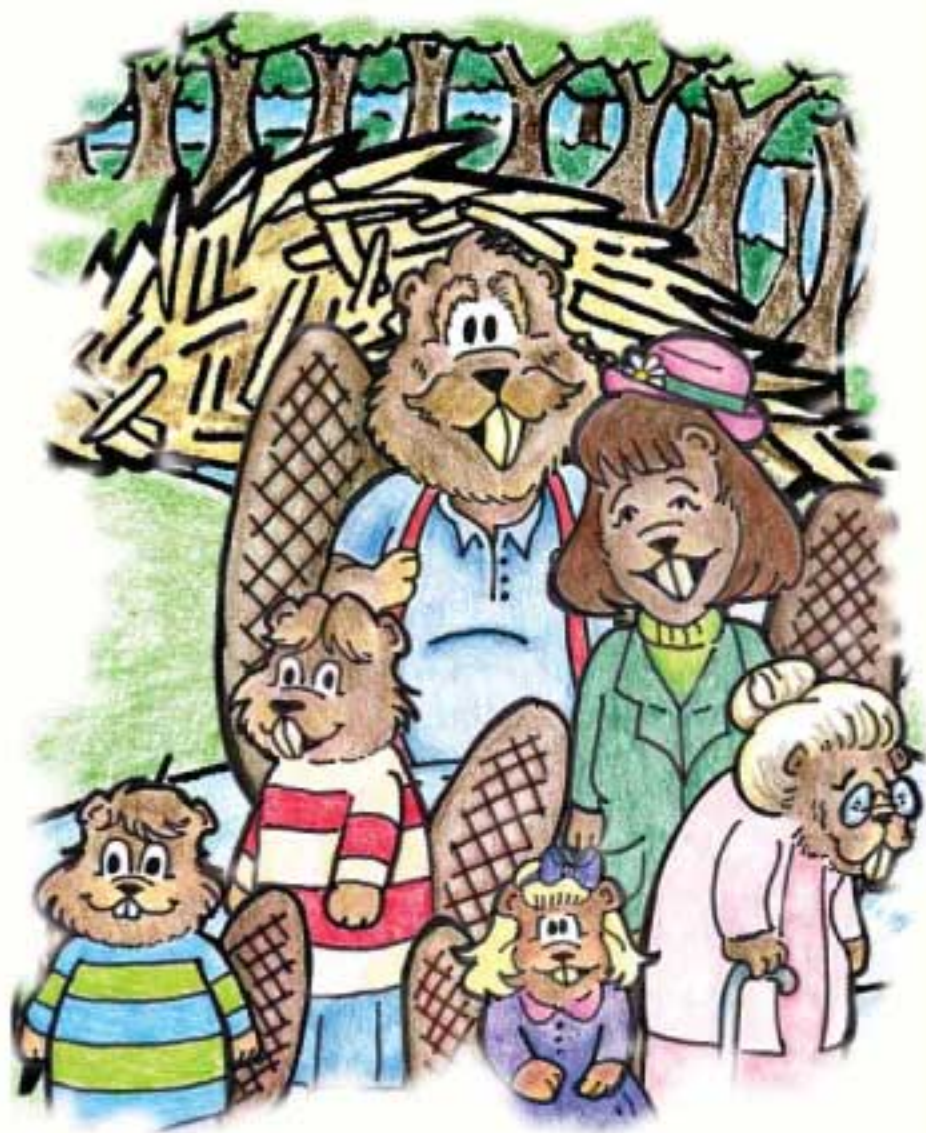
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Joey is a four-year-old beaver that lives with his family near a small stream in a huge forest. It's a very peaceful place, where birds, squirrels and other animals live in harmony.



In Joey's house, there is Dad Beaver, Mom Beaver, a little sister and a big brother. Grandma lives with them too.



Draw your family on this page. You can also cut out and glue pictures.



One bright, sunny morning, the carrier owl delivers a very special letter. In the letter, Joey's aunt asks Mom to come over and help her build a new room in her house. Everyone knows that beavers are very good at building houses.



Mom begins organizing her things to leave. Suddenly, it seems the whole house is a mess.



What preparations do you make to play outside? To go on a trip with Mom and Dad? To have a picnic? Circle the things you need to go on a picnic.

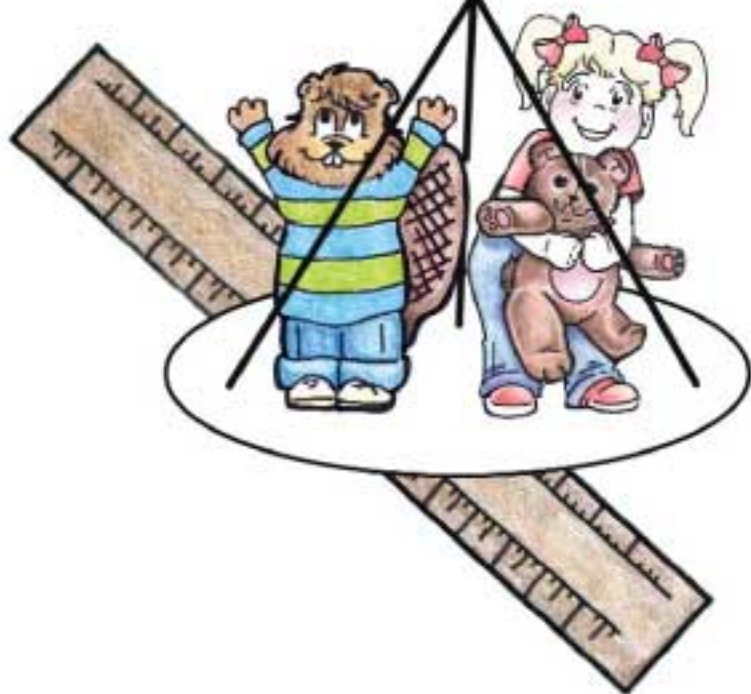


Mom wants to make sure that everything goes well while she is gone. The children try on all their clothes to see if they still fit.

weight



height



Ask an adult to help weigh you and measure your height.



Mom leaves today. Joey is unhappy to see Mom go. He feels like crying. His big brother laughs at him. Grandma takes Joey into her arms, gives him a big kiss and everything is better.



Before saying goodbye to Mom, a photo is taken of the family so Joey can look at it often while Mom is away. Mom also promises that the carrier owl will bring some letters from her.



Glue the picture of your parent right here. You can decorate envelopes and writing paper for your parent to bring with him/her and write you letters.



During the first few days Mom is away, Joey often feels like crying. Sometimes he is angry and doesn't know why.



He takes the family picture and holds it tight. Joey remembers the day he played in the leaves with Mom. Already he feels better.



Draw one time you felt happy. What makes you happy, angry, worried?



I feel loved when



I feel angry when



I feel sick when



I feel sad when



I feel surprised when



Joey and his little sister often cut things out and send them to Mom in a nice bottle. When they put the bottle in the river, it looks as if it is dancing. Joey's big brother writes long letters to Mom, which he sends by carrier owl.



Since Mom has been away, some things are different. Dad does not cook quite the same way as Mom, and things are not always put away in the right place. One morning, Joey can't find his favourite scarf. Dad had put it in Grandma's dresser!





Dad must leave for one or two days to get supplies. During this time, Grandma stays alone with the three small beavers.



On those days, Joey and his big brother help Grandma bake their favourite cookies - birch bark cookies. Ummmmmmmm! They're good!



Birch Bark Cookies

1. Melt together 1 cup chocolate chips and 1 cup butterscotch chips.
2. Remove from heat and add 1 cup chow mein noodles and 1 cup peanuts. (You can substitute the noodles or the peanuts with unsweetened flaked cereal.)
3. Drop by teaspoon onto wax paper.
4. Chill until firm.
5. Enjoy!



Here's the birch bark cookie recipe. Ask an adult to help you bake them.



Some days, Grandma brings Joey and his little sister to the daycare centre. At the beginning, Joey's sister would cry a bit. When she saw all the new toys and all her friends, she quickly got over her unhappiness.











Remember the first time you were babysat? Did you meet some new friends? Write down the names of your new friends. What were your favourite activities?



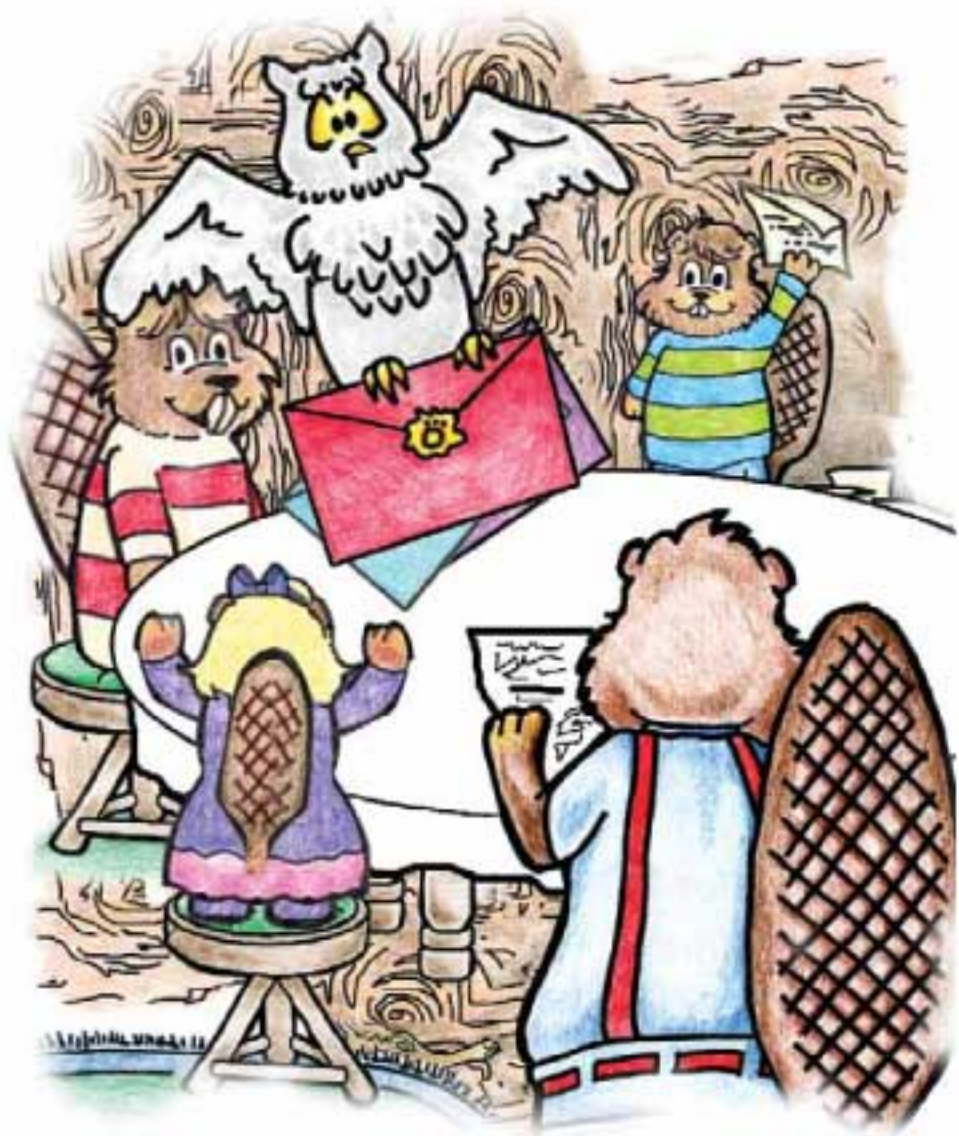
One day, when Joey's little sister comes to wake him up, she starts to laugh. Joey's body is covered from head to toe with green lumps. Joey doesn't feel very well and would really like Mom to be there to make him feel better.



Dad comes into the room, puts a special cream on the green lumps, gives Joey a big hug and tells him a nice story. Soon, Joey feels much better.



How many lumps can you find on Joey___?
Draw in green all the lumps you see.



The beaver family often receives letters from Mom and everyone gathers around the table to read them.



One day, Joey receives a very special letter. His birthday is coming up and Mom included a letter just for him. She tells him that even though she can't be with him to help him celebrate, she will be back soon. Her work is almost over.



Joey is so anxious to see Mom. He wonders if she will recognize him. After all, his teeth are much larger than when she left, and his coat has become much darker.

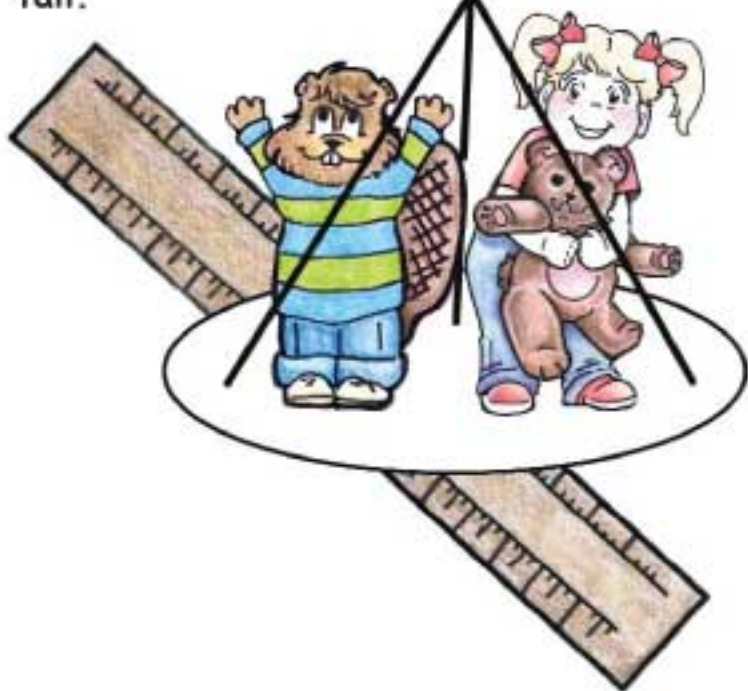
weight



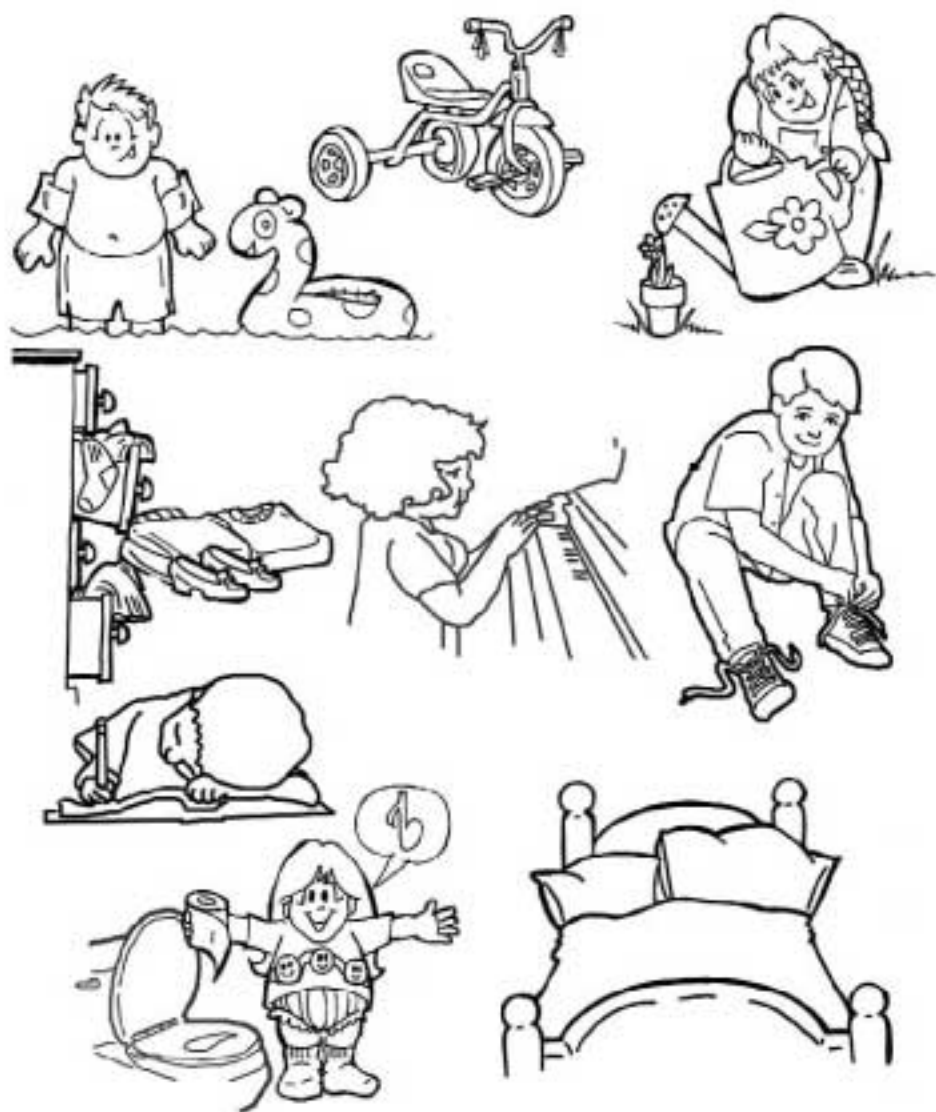
height

When my parent
went away, I
weighed _____
and I was _____
tall.

Today, I
weigh _____
and I am
_____ tall.



How have you changed in the time Mom or Dad has been away? Ask an adult to help weigh you and measure your height.



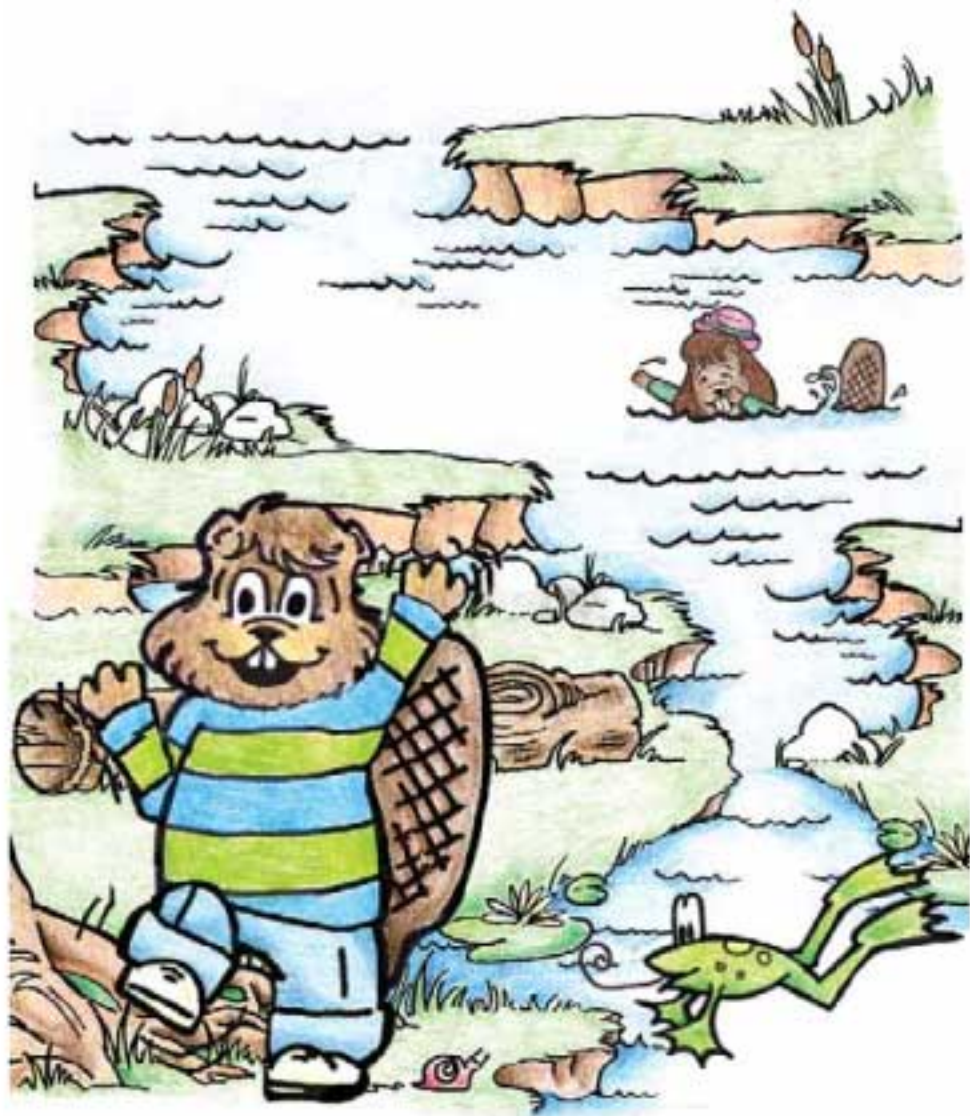
Are you now sleeping in another bed? Are you now able to tie your shoes, get dressed by yourself or write your name? Circle the things you can now do that you weren't able to do when your parent went away.



Then suddenly the big day is here! Mom is coming home! The children, Dad and Grandma are looking down the river often. Nobody wants to miss her arrival.



Help Mom find her way through the rivers.



Far off in the distance. Joey sees a little black speck which gradually gets bigger. Could it be?...yes it is, it's Mom! He recognizes her pink felt hat.



All the members of the family gather along the shore. The only thing left to find out is who will jump the highest and make the most noise. Mom has finally come home. Everyone's so happy!



Can you find the differences between the two sets of pictures? (written at bottom of page)

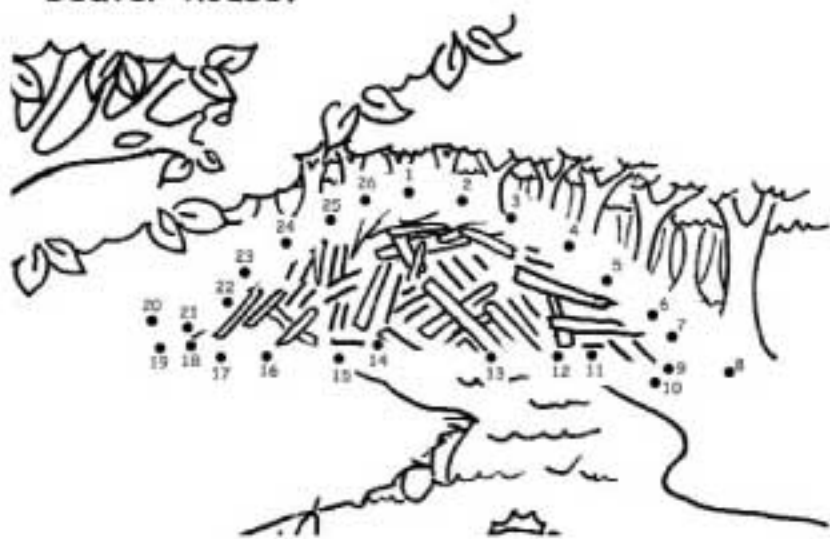


Mom - has a duck on her head instead of her hat; Little sister - has a heart pattern on her dress and a flower in her hair instead of a bow; Joey - is waving and has a polka-dot pattern on his shirt instead of stripes; Grandma - has lost her glasses and her tail; Big brother - has the number 1 on his shirt instead of stripes and no longer has cuffs on his jeans; Dad - has lost his teeth and one of his suspenders.

Can you finish these pictures? Each side is exactly the same.



Where do beavers live? _____
Connect the dots and draw the picture of a beaver house.



Here are some postcards for you to colour in and send away!

Here are some postcards for you to colour in and send away!



Here are some postcards for you to colour in and send away!



SURPRISE

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

