



# BEST BEGINNINGS

Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

**BOOK TITLE:** A Place Called Kindergarten  
**AUTHOR:** Jessica Harper  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** G. Brian Karas



**SUMMARY OF BOOK:** This is the exciting story about a boy named Tommy who goes to his first day of kindergarten and has to leave all his animal friends behind. His animal friends are really worried about him until he finally comes home that afternoon. Tommy then tells them all about what he learned at school that day.

**\*BEFORE READING** (Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion, assisting the child in understanding and enjoying the book). Ask:

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| 1. What do you think this book will be about? (while showing your child the front cover of the book) | 3. Can you tell me some of the letters of the alphabet?                 |
| 2. Have you ever been to a farm before? What did you see?  | 4. What do you think it will be like on your first day of kindergarten? |

**DURING READING:** As you read the book talk with the child about the story and the illustrations. Ask questions such as:

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| 1. Why do you think Tommy came down to the barn every day?   | 4. Have you ever heard how sheep, cows, horses, and hens sound? What did they sound like? |
| 2. How would you feel if one of your favorite people did not come to visit you when they were supposed to? | 5. Why did the animals ask the dog for information about Tommy?                           |
| 3. Have you ever ridden on a big yellow bus? What was it like?   |   |

**AFTER READING** (activity to extend book experience):

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| 1. Find different items in your house that start with the letters of the alphabet. Have your child identify the letters. | 2. Have your child draw a picture of what it would look like if she were telling animals about her first day of kindergarten. |
|  | 3. Pretend to be different animals with their different sounds.   |

Compliments of:



\* This activity created by students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and used by permission of the United Way of Greater Chattanooga.

