Picnic
by Emily Arnold McCully (HarperCollins)
Themes: Feelings/Families
Grade Level: PreK-3
Running Time: 13 minutes, animated

Summary
Picnic is a wordless story about a family of mice out for a picnicking day in the country. During the ride to the picnic area, the smallest mouse falls off the back of the truck, unbeknownst to the rest of the family. The sad little mouse finds flower blossoms to eat and fills himself up with them in an unfamiliar surrounding. Meanwhile, the mouse family is having a wonderful time at the picnic. When it is discovered that the small mouse is missing, the family rushes back to the truck and searches for her. The end of the story finds the little mouse happily reunited with her family, but hardly ready to enjoy a picnic lunch!

Objectives
• Children will explore family outings
• Children will investigate the ways family members care for and feel about one another
• Children will enjoy an emotion-filled story told without words

Before Viewing Activities
Share the book Picnic with children.

Then ask:
If you went along with the mouse family on their outing, what would you enjoy most about the day?

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Borrowed from French pique-nique. enPR: pÅ•kˈnÄ•k, IPA(key): /ˈpɪknɪk/. Rhymes: -ɪknɪk. Hyphenation: picâ€§nic. picnic (plural picnics). An informal social gathering, usually in a natural outdoor setting, to which the participants bring their own food and drink. We went out for a picnic in the forest. The meal eaten at such a gathering. (figuratively) An easy or pleasant task. Synonym: piece of cake. We remind the guests that dealing with this problem is no picnic, and to be patient.