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Chapter Seven

The Lion and the Mouse

Self-Worth

Background

You have probably heard this story in many places. Here is a simple version for your bedtime telling.

The Story

WHOMP! The lion's paw fell straight down and landed on top of the little mouse. The lion looked at the mouse and decided that he should eat the mouse as his mid-day snack.



"Please don't eat me," said the mouse "for if you let me go I will someday be able to help you, great lion!"

The lion thought the idea of the tiny little mouse helping him was so funny that he laughed out loud. Then he let the mouse go as he was laughing so hard he could not eat. As the mouse ran away, the sound of the lion laughing faded away into the background.

A few days later, the very same lion was hunting in the jungle when he came upon a big pile of tasty meat, which was his favorite food. As he stepped closer to the meat, he triggered a trap that swept him up in a huge net made of rough rope.

Just at that moment, the mouse walked past where the lion was trapped. The lion called out for the mouse to help him. The mouse began to chew on the rope net until it broke apart and the lion was free of the trap.

"See, I told you that I would someday help you," said the mouse to the lion. And from that day on, the great lion never forgot how even the smallest creature could be very helpful.

Your "Brick-And-Mortar Story Reminder"TM List

1. Lion's paw lands on little mouse
2. Lion plans on eating mouse
3. Mouse asks to be set free, promises to help lion someday
4. Lion laughs at idea and lets mouse run away free
5. Later, lion is caught in a trap
6. Mouse finds lion, chews ropes until lion is set free
7. Mouse "See I told you..."
8. Lion amazed that a small creature could help

My Coaching Notes for You

WHOMP! The lion's paw fell straight down and landed on top of the little mouse **[make this a quick gesture as your hand lands on top of the bed, couch or your child's head to catch the mouse]**. The lion **[in some versions of this story, the mouse is running around the sleeping lion before he gets caught]** looked at the mouse **[you could hold your hand as if you were dangling the mouse from his tail or make a fist with the mouse's head sticking out of the top]** and decided that he **[change genders if you want]** should eat the mouse as his mid-day snack.

"Please don't eat me" **[really play with this short story, starting with the way the little mouse talks- you can't go wrong by having fun]**, said the mouse "for if you let me go I will someday be able to help you, great lion!"

The lion thought the idea **[maybe mutter a "hmmm" and scratch your chin]** of the tiny little **[remember that small children love the idea of tiny things]** mouse helping him was so funny that he laughed out loud **[make a big laugh here]**. Then he let the mouse go as he was laughing so hard he could not eat. As the mouse ran away **[use your finger to show the zig zag path of the mouse running away]**, the sound of the lion laughing faded away into the background.

A few days later, the very same lion was hunting **[look about side to side pretending to hunt]** in the jungle when he came upon a big pile of tasty meat **[rub your hands on your child's head, pretending it is the pile of meat- you should get some giggles from your child- play with this as long as you want]**, which was his favorite food. As he stepped closer to the meat, he triggered a trap that swept him up **[say this quickly]** in a huge net made of rough rope **[swing your hands back and forth, like the lion swinging away in the rope-net trap]**.

Just at that moment, the mouse walked **[use your hand again to indicate the mouse walking along in a zig-zag pattern]** past where the lion was trapped. The lion called out for the mouse to help him **[you can make up a conversation here between the lion and mouse- take turns with your child as you both pretend to be lion or mouse]** . The mouse began to chew on the rope net until it finally broke apart and the lion was free of the trap.

"See, I told you that I would someday help you," said the mouse to the lion. And from that day on, the great lion never forgot how even the smallest creature could be very helpful **[when telling stories that have a moral attached, just say the moral in your normal, everyday voice- avoid the "now, you need to learn this" voice]**.

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