

Small steps.
Kind hearts.
New beginnings.

When Bubba arrives at a house he's never seen before, everything feels different—the room, the dinner table, even the sounds in the night.

Bubba's First Night is a gentle story about uncertainty, belonging, and the quiet power of having someone sit beside you when the world feels unfamiliar.

- There are little hearts hiding along the way.
- Because sometimes love is easy to see.
- And sometimes... you just have to look a little harder.

Bubba's First Night

A Bubba the Bear Story

Everyone belongs here.
Everyone matters.

A BRIGHTER TOMORROW STARTS HERE

Braver Days Ahead

KINDNESS
BELONGING
SAFE PLACES
BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

About the Book

Bubba's First Night follows Bubba the Bear as he arrives at a new home and begins his journey in foster care.

Everything feels different—the room, the dinner table, and even the sounds in the night. But with a kind foster mom, a cozy bed, and a little patience, Bubba begins to feel something new: hope.

This warm and reassuring story helps children understand that while change can be hard, they are not alone. Bubba's First Night shows that small acts of kindness can make a big difference, and brighter tomorrows are always possible.

A new place.
A kind heart.
A brighter tomorrow.



Suggested Age Range Ages 4–8

Best used with:

- Parents and caregivers
- Teachers
- Librarians
- Foster and adoptive families
- Counselors and social workers
- Classroom discussions
- Children's groups
- Bedtime read-alouds



Key Themes

- Change and new beginnings
- Feelings and adjustment
- Foster care and belonging
- Kindness and compassion
- Safe and supportive adults
- Courage and hope
- Finding comfort in small things
- You are not alone

Kindness helps new beginnings feel a little easier.

Why This Book Matters

Bubba's First Night helps children understand that it's okay to feel nervous when things are new or different. It offers a gentle, age-appropriate way to talk about foster care, change, and finding a safe place to belong.

This story helps children understand:

- It's normal to feel nervous or unsure in a new place.
- Kind people can help even when things feel hard.
- Small comforts can make a big difference.
- Families can look different, and everyone belongs.
- Hope can grow, even after a scary day.
- Brighter days are ahead.



You are safe here.



Before Reading

You might ask:

- What do you think Bubba might be feeling on his first night?
- Have you ever been somewhere new? What helped you feel better?
- What are some kind things people can do to make someone feel welcome?
- What makes a place feel like home?

There are no right or wrong answers. Let children share as much—or as little—as they feel comfortable.



Let's Talk About Bubba

- How do you think Bubba felt when he arrived at the new house?
- What are some things that felt different for Bubba?
- Who helped Bubba feel more comfortable?
- What are some small things that can make a new place feel safer?
- Why do you think having someone sit with you can help?
- What does it mean to be kind and welcoming?
- How do you think Bubba's story might help other children?
- What would you say to Bubba if you could give him a hug?



Gentle Connection Questions

- What are some ways we can be kind to someone who is new?
- How can we show that everyone belongs?
- What does "home" mean to you?
- What are some things that help you feel safe?
- How can we be a good friend to someone who feels nervous?
- What are some ways we can make our school or community a kinder place?



Kindness changes everything.



Try This: Kindness Hearts

Cut out paper hearts and write or draw simple kindness ideas, such as:

- Say hello.
- Share a toy.
- Sit with someone.
- Be a friend.
- Help someone who feels nervous.

Small kindnesses make a big difference.



A Note for Adults

This book can be a valuable tool for starting conversations about foster care, change, and the importance of kindness. Some children may have personal experiences with these topics, while others may be learning about them for the first time.

- Let the child lead the conversation.
- Validate their feelings.
- Emphasize that they are not alone.
- Highlight the power of small, kind actions.
- Encourage empathy, inclusion, and hope.

Real kids.
Real challenges.
Brighter tomorrows.



Steady Heart Studio
Stories for Brighter Tomorrows

"Sometimes the smallest moments make the biggest difference."

