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Chippy Chipmunk: Friends in the Garden
by Kathy M. Miller

**NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK USES NATURE TO OPEN THE
DIALOGUE ON LOSS**

**-Award-winning nature photographer & author teaches lessons on loss through
stunning wildlife characters**

Explaining loss to children is never easy. Whether they’ve lost a family member, a friend, or even a pet, explaining healthy ways of mourning to a child can sometimes come across as dauntingly grown up. But maybe life and death are best explained in their most fitting backdrop: nature.

Here to guide children through loss is award-winning nature photographer **Kathy M. Miller** and the newest installment in her renowned *Chippy Chipmunk* series, ***Chippy Chipmunk: Friends in the Garden***. Awarded a Gold Medal by the Mom’s Choice Awards, Chippy Chipmunk and his meadow friends introduce children to the natural ways of life and death. Helping him mourn the loss of his good friend, Pickle, Chippy’s friends teach children that it’s okay to be sad, to talk about the life of someone they’ve lost, and to rely on friends and family as a means of support. The story is bolstered by extraordinary, high definition photographs of all the garden critters, adding an element of realism that directly appeals to children and speaks in a literal voice about the circle of life.

“Loss is a natural part of life,” says Miller, “but most adults in our society are uncomfortable talking about death. This can leave children suffering and feeling isolated. Through the ***Chippy Chipmunk*** series, I demonstrate ways friends can help friends cope with loss. They offer food, take on daily tasks, offer to play and share, give them gifts, organize a dedication for the friend that died, share memories and stories, and so much more. I also provide child-appropriate methods through which nature can be a healing source, such as teaching kids to look for things that are heart-shaped or other reminders

of their loved one, or by imagining that beautiful things they see are sent from those who've passed."

It highlights themes including:

- Everyone deals with death, even nature's smallest creatures
- Helping young children deal with the loss of a loved one
- How kids can be good friends to those who are grieving
- Teaching children it's okay to be sad sometimes
- Getting children enthusiastic about the opportunities found outdoors

This adorable book, the third in its series, also contains an activity page, notes to parents and educators, and fun facts about the wildlife in the book. Meeting the criteria of the Common Core, it can also be used as a wonderful classroom teaching tool.

Kathy M. Miller is a teacher, cellist, author and award-winning nature photographer. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Kutztown University with Bachelor degrees in Education and Music. In addition to the images found in her multi-award winning children's books (*Chippy Chipmunk Parties in the Garden*, and *Chippy Chipmunk: Babies in the Garden*), Miller's photographs have been published in newspapers and magazines, as well as brochures including Hawk Mountain News and the 2009 Schuylkill County Visitors Guide. Miller's photography has also been featured in the *Yuengling Brewery Cookbook* and *Rescuing Wildlife* and she won second place in the Schuylkill Allied Artists Competition in photography. Miller's multi-media nature program has been presented to numerous nature centers, libraries and schools across North America. Highly engaging and interactive, it includes aural and visual components about backyard nature. It also includes tips on photography, as well as video clips and a hands-on burrow building simulation. She is a speaker at various reading and library association conferences. Born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, Miller now lives in New Ringgold, Pennsylvania.

The Chippy Chipmunk series is the recipient of 35 national awards.

For more information about the book and the *Chippy Chipmunk* series, please visit www.chippychipmunk.com.

YouTube: www.youtube.com/chippychipmunk

Chippy Chipmunk: Friends in the Garden is available for purchase at www.chippychipmunk.com, www.amazon.com, and www.barnesandnoble.com.

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