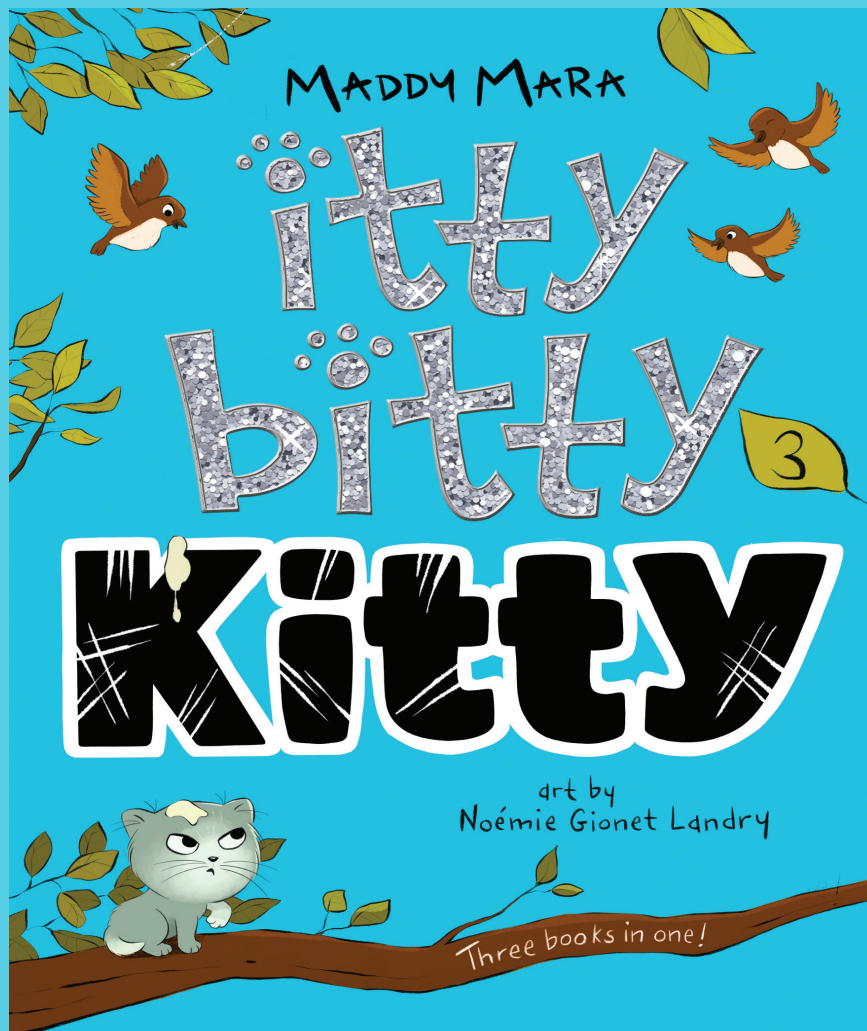


Classroom Resources



Written by

Maddy Mara

Illustrated by

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Suitable for ages

5 to 7

Themes

Confidence

Play

Making mistakes



affirm
press

Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Itty Bitty Kitty 3*
- Key themes
- Questions for before we begin reading
- Discussion points in key curriculum areas: Comprehension, Literacy, and Social & Emotional Development
- Final reflections
- Two activities: Drawing and Wordsearch

Description

Itty Bitty Kitty LOVES tree climbing, leaping on leaves and sleeping in sunbeams. She HATES being called cute. She is almost a tiger, after all!

She may still be a kitten, but Itty Bitty is ready to take on the world. And she knows all the Cat Laws.

But her family are taking a long time to learn the rules. They still don't know that cats must play when the moon is full. And they think cats are clumsy! Itty Bitty has a lot to teach them.

Join Itty Bitty on three new epic adventures. Will she stick to the rules? Or will this kitty make up her own rules for life?

About the author

Maddy Mara is the pen name of Melbourne-based creative duo Hilary Rogers and Meredith Badger. Hilary and Meredith have been collaborating on children's books for nearly two decades. Hilary is an author and former publishing director; Meredith is the author of countless books for kids and young adults, and teaches English as a foreign language. Maddy Mara is the melding of their respective daughters' names.

About the illustrator

Noémie grew up in a small coastal town of New-Brunswick, Canada, surrounded by the ocean. Growing up, she told everyone she wanted to become either a doctor, or a children's book illustrator. Midway through med school, she decided she would do both. She now shares her time between the hospital (where she works as a rheumatologist) and her home studio, where she sketches, draws and paints surrounded by her wife, son, two tiny Chihuahuas and two cats. She works both digitally and traditionally, creating engaging illustrations, usually with a funny twist!

Find the Itty Bitty Kitty series at our website: <https://affirmpress.com.au/>

Key themes

Confidence

Even though Itty Bitty is small and young, she's sure of her strengths. She knows that she is good at climbing and pouncing, and she knows that she's a great kitten to her human. This book can be used to discuss the importance of confidence and the ways we can act more confidently.

Play

Itty Bitty knows how important it is to play, and she shares the joy of play with her human, Leo, as much as she can. This book can be used to explore the role of creative play and to initiate play-based activities for independent and group work.

Making mistakes

Itty Bitty likes to try new things. Sometimes that goes wrong! In each of the stories, we see how things didn't quite go to plan for Itty Bitty. This book can be used to explore the idea that it is okay to make mistakes.

Before we begin reading

- Have a look at the front cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- Why do you think the book is called *Itty Bitty Kitty*? What does 'Itty Bitty' mean? Is this kitten really big or really small?
- Describe the character (Itty Bitty) on the cover. How do you think she is feeling in this picture?
- What was the last book you read, and did you enjoy it? Are you excited to read this book?



Discussion in key curriculum areas

Comprehension

General

- Itty Bitty's friend Ginger always has a lot of advice to give. Is it good advice?
- Does Ginger always tell the truth? Is there ever a time when it's okay to lie? Why/why not?
- Itty Bitty is confident that she can do anything. Is she always right? When did you last feel confident?
- Is Itty Bitty always careful and considerate of her humans?
- Itty Bitty loves to play and have fun. Can you find some examples of the ways she likes to play? Does she play on her own or with others?
- Itty Bitty has a lot of action words to describe the way she moves, like DOUBLE PAW SWIPES and POUNCE AND TRAP. Can you make a list of these actions? Can you think of any other actions Itty Bitty might use?
- In each of these stories, Itty Bitty shows us her Cat Laws. Are the Cat Laws the same at the start and end of each story?



Story-specific

- In Story 1, Itty Bitty meets some birds. How does she talk to them?
- In Story 1, Itty Bitty describes how tall Dad Human is. How many kittens tall is he? How many kittens tall do you think you would be?
- In Story 1, both Leo and Itty Bitty climb the tree. What happens to each of them?
- Story 2 is set at night-time. Can you tell just from looking at the illustrations? How?
- In Story 2, what techniques does Itty Bitty use to try and wake Leo? Can you list them? Can you come up with some other options?
- In Story 2, Itty Bitty looks for someone to play with. What happens? Who does she play with in the end?
- In Story 2, there is a map of the kitchen. What do we see on the map? How does that show us what is important to Itty Bitty? How would you draw a map of your kitchen?
- In Story 3, what is Mum Human doing at the start? Is Itty Bitty really helping? How do you think Mum Human feels here?
- In Story 3, Itty Bitty goes to hide behind the bookcase after she knocks over Mum Human's coffee. Why does she do this? What does this show us about how Itty Bitty is feeling?
- In Story 3, what does Itty Bitty think she needs to do to stop her family from sending her to the shelter? Why does she think this?



Text and Visual Literacy

- The stories about Itty Bitty are funny. One way they make us laugh is through the difference between what Itty Bitty thinks and what is actually true, like when she thinks that Dad Human raked the leaves just for her. Can you find any other examples of jokes like this?
- Sometimes we can see these jokes in the illustrations, like when Itty Bitty says that she has climbed really high but we see in the art that she has barely left the ground. Are there other places where the text and art don't match? Can you describe what you see?
- Itty Bitty often calls human features by the names of cat features, like calling their hands 'paws'. Can you find other examples of this?



Social and Emotional Development

- In Story 1, Itty Bitty meets some birds. How do they make her feel? How does she react to their behaviour? Have you ever felt like Itty Bitty does here?
- In Story 1, Itty Bitty is climbing a tree when her paws tremble and her stomach starts to feel funny. Have you ever felt like this before? What made you feel better?
- We know that Itty Bitty is very excited to be up and playing at night in Story 2. But how do you think the rest of the family feels in this story?
- In Story 3, Itty Bitty thinks that her family is going to take her back to the shelter and she runs away. This is an example of a misunderstanding. Can you think of a time when you've had a misunderstanding with your friends or family? How can misunderstandings be avoided?

Final Reflections

- Which was your favourite Itty Bitty story in this book? Why?
- Do you have any pets at home? Do they act like Itty Bitty?
- Do you find the stories funny? Why? Why not? What do you think makes something funny?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?
- There are two other books in the Itty Bitty series – do you want to read those now that you have read this one?



Activity One: Draw your pet (or your dream pet)

Do you have a pet? Draw your pet in the space below. If you don't have a pet, you might like to draw your dream pet or favourite animal instead.

My pet's name is _____

Activity Two: Word Search

Find and circle each of the words from the list below! The words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally across the grid.

C	T	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	D	S	N	K	C	U
V	X	B	O	Q	J	T	I	G	E	R	E	K	A	R
L	K	C	Q	A	N	Y	A	L	P	Z	L	B	R	E
J	A	A	Y	S	M	U	L	C	P	O	O	P	D	P
Y	L	I	M	R	M	S	T	P	J	Y	N	A	B	M
N	H	C	T	A	R	C	S	J	E	L	O	O	O	A
U	Q	M	B	L	D	M	F	J	O	I	I	B	A	C
V	X	O	O	A	D	L	O	F	I	M	P	L	R	S
H	X	S	B	U	R	S	G	O	K	A	M	L	D	S
F	G	N	Y	E	S	B	G	Z	N	F	A	M	Y	D
S	H	E	D	A	D	E	Y	K	B	G	H	T	T	R
D	N	F	V	R	A	D	L	S	K	L	C	X	R	I
J	I	Y	J	N	O	J	M	E	P	Z	W	L	E	B
K	B	S	E	V	A	E	L	D	C	E	V	G	E	C
K	J	Y	X	D	S	U	N	B	E	A	M	M	I	U

BIRDS

CARDBOARD

CHAMPION

CLUMSY

DESK

FAMILY

FRIENDS

LEAVES

MOON

MOUSE

PLAY

POOP

SCRATCH

SCAMPER

SHED

SUNBEAM

TIGER

TREE