There's a Spider in my hair!

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This book has been produced, with funding from the Scottish Government, to support the implementation of Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) within schools.

It has been designed to help educators, parents and carers discuss concepts of wellbeing with young children aged around 3–6 years. The story encourages an exploration of who young children can turn to in their lives for help.

The book can be read as a stand-alone story and there are some ideas for discussions and activities to do with the story on the last page.

The book also forms part of a wider resource for teachers and practitioners to help improve children and young people’s understanding of their wellbeing. Additional activities to accompany the book are included.

The resource can be found on www.childreninscotland.org.uk
Bud was bouncing up and down, Pulling faces like a clown.

“What are you doing?” asked little Dee, “You’re acting like you’ve found a flea!”
“No!” woofed Bud, “It’s worse, I swear... There’s a spider stuck in my hair! It’s made a web behind my ear, Please will you make it disappear?”
“Crumbs!” said Dee, “You need a comb, I think my Granny has one at home.

But Granny went out with Uncle Gus

On the number 13 bus.”
“The bus!” squealed Bud with a hop, “Let’s buy a comb at the shop.”

“No!” moaned Dee, “We’re not allowed. We might get lost, there’ll be a crowd,
It's not safe to go on our own...”
“Fine,” snapped Bud, “I’ll go alone!”

“Wait!” Dee yapped, 
“I’ll come too,
But it’s a bad idea... I’m warning you!”
Just then, they saw a bus go by,  
“Follow that bus!”  
Bud gave a cry.

Up the street,  
then left,  
then right,  

They chased the bus  
with all their might.
Through deep puddles, narrow lanes,
The spider dangling from Bud’s mane.

The bus was too fast
for these pups,

Dee’s little legs could not keep up.
Panting hard, she ground to a halt, Bud tripped over, with a somersault.

The spider swung through the air, Landing safely in Bud’s hair.
Bud lay in a muddy heap, 
Looking like a frizzy sheep.

Dee looked around, with a frown, 
She didn’t know this part of town.
“Where are we, Bud?” Dee gave a yelp, “I don’t know who to ask for help.”
We’re lost, I’m scared... what a fuss, 
We never should have chased that bus!”
Just then, the spider reappeared, Nestling snugly in Bud’s ear.

In fright, Bud leapt up with a bark
And as he did, he saw the park.
“My favourite place!”
Bud cried with glee,

“I know the way home, follow me!”
Racing along the park’s green grass,
They hopped on the sculpture made of glass.
But at that moment, the spider chose
To dangle on to Bud’s wet nose.
“Ahhh!” Bud yelled, falling over the edge, Landing headfirst in a spiky hedge.
“I want my mum! I think I’m stuck. Why do I have such rotten luck?”

“Oh, Bud!” groaned Dee, “Please stop moving, This situation is not improving!”
Your hair is getting really mangled,
How did you get so very tangled?

The only thing that’s left to do,
Is call for help, let’s howl:
Not far away a police dog strolled. Along a side street, on patrol. "I'm sure," he said, "I heard a cry, I think someone needs help nearby!"
The police dog dashed across the park,

Listening out for another bark.

He tracked a scent and sniffed like mad

Until he found Dee, looking sad.
“Hello, young pup, are you in distress?”

“Yes,” whimpered Dee, “we’re in a mess!”

Spotting Bud, the police dog laughed, “I see that now, he does look daft!”
The police dog managed to pull Bud free...
Who jumped for joy and cuddled Dee.
Then the spider, who’d enjoyed his day,
Waved at Bud and crawled away.
The police dog barked: “Come on, pups, Let’s get you home and clean you up. The sun’s going down, it’s nearly dark. You shouldn’t be alone in the park.”
When Granny saw Dee,
she hugged her tight,

“You’re safe!” she cried,
“You gave me a fright!”
“And Bud, your mum has been so scared....

Goodness me, look at your hair!”
“Say thank you to the police dog then,
And promise you’ll never run off again!

Let’s go inside,
you need a comb...”
“Look, I’ve got one here at home!”
The End
Before you read this book to a child, or children, look at the front cover and talk about what they think the book is about.

What are their favourite pictures in the book?
- Talk about why they like them.

Do they think Bud was sensible to run off looking for a comb?
- Talk about what it means to be sensible.
- Can they think of a time they were sensible?
- Ask them to talk about it.
- Discuss why they should not go anywhere without their parent, person caring for them or teacher knowing.

Talk about why they think Dee decided to go with Bud even though she did not think it was a good idea.

Ask how they think Bud and Dee were feeling when they realised they were lost?
- Ask them if they have they ever got lost? What happened?

Discuss who they think are the best people to ask for help.
- Help them recognise who they could ask for help by pointing them out when you are out in your community.

Show them safe places to cross roads.
- Practise ‘Stop, Look and Listen’.
- Look at the early years section of Road Safety Scotland for stories, games and videos: www.gosafewithziggy.com

Ask them to draw a picture of their favourite part of the book.
- Talk to them about their picture.
Bud and Dee are best pals... but when these two pups stray from home on a disastrous mission, they get completely lost.

What should they do?

“Where are we Bud?”

“I don’t know who to ask for help!”

Dee gave a yelp,