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Chippy Chipmunk Feels Empathy
by Kathy M. Miller

**NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK USES NATURE TO OPEN A DIALOGUE ON
EMPATHY**

**-Award-winning nature photographer & author teaches lessons on diversity and
empathy through stunning wildlife characters**

Kathy M. Miller’s newest installment in her renowned *Chippy Chipmunk* series, *Chippy Chipmunk Feels Empathy*, uses the backdrop of nature to teach lessons on diversity and empathy. It was awarded a Gold Medal by the Mom’s Choice Awards. When Chippy Chipmunk meets a unique chipmunk, he learns to feel empathy and show kindness. In Chippy’s first encounter with Harriet, she explains that a flood destroyed her burrow, so she is searching for a new place to dig. She asks for help, but Chippy refuses and chases her away. He is preoccupied with his goal of having a record-setting day collecting acorns, and he is skeptical that the newcomer is a chipmunk since she has no stripes. Chippy's friends show him that there is diversity in every species. “Diversity makes the world more beautiful,” a blue peacock tells Chippy. “My friend and I may look different on the outside, but inside we are the same,” adds a peacock that is an all-white variety.

Chippy’s friends help him to understand empathy and the need to show compassion. Chippy imagines what it would be like to be other wildlife. He thoughtfully observes other creatures. He pretends to be like them and echoes their calls as a way to develop empathy. He pictures himself in Harriet’s situation. The light of a new day gives Chippy a fresh beginning. Feeling empathy changes his heart. He helps Harriet build a new burrow and shares his acorns with her. The two become friends.

It highlights themes including:

- Every species has diversity. Diversity makes the world more beautiful.
- We are alike on the inside even if different on the outside

- There is more than first meets the eye
- We are less likely to help someone when we are pre-occupied
- We can feel empathy by remembering a time we had a similar experience or by imagining how another feels.
- Feeling empathy leads to showing kindness

This adorable book, the fourth in its series, also contains notes on ways to develop empathy in children, a comparison of sympathy to empathy, and fun facts about the wildlife in the book. It can 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*, *Chippy Chipmunk: Babies in the Garden*, and *Chippy Chipmunk: Friends in the Garden*), Miller’s photographs have been published in newspapers, magazines, tourism brochures, and several books including *Yuengling Brewery Cookbook* and *Rescuing Wildlife*. She won second place in the Schuylkill Allied Artists Competition in photography. In 2014 Kathy received the “President’s Volunteer Service Award” in recognition and appreciation of her commitment to strengthening our Nation and for making a difference through volunteer service. In 2015 Kathy received the Celebrate Literacy Award from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Reading Association for her significant contributions to literacy. 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 literacy 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 36 national awards.

Cover art, interior art and author photos are available under the Media Room section at: www.chippychipmunk.com.

Chippy Chipmunk Feels Empathy is available for purchase at booksellers, nature centers and online at www.chippychipmunk.com, www.amazon.com, and www.barnesandnoble.com.

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