



## **Berry Beary Gentle**

Berry Beary Gentle was helping out in the hospital today, a few new cubs had been born. She was helping to wash them, hold them and comfort them.

She would take them around to look here and there and get to see all the new things they could notice for the first time. This would give their mothers a bit of time to rest, or eat, or spend moments with their other little ones.

Berry Beary Gentle wouldn't keep them away for long, for little cubs always need to know that their mother is near. There is something special about their own dear mother.

No matter how kind or gentle or interesting someone else is, they know their mother is the one that loves them the most, and knows the best how to care for them.

When Berry Beary Gentle would bring each little cub back to its mother and family, then she would go and spend a little time helping another family.

So this is the way she spent her whole day, first going to this family, then that, and the other, and finally back again to assist the first family again.

The more time she spent with these new little ones, the more she loved them—almost as if they had been her very own. She was thought of as the mother of Berry Beary Town.

She treated each little child as if they were her own, or her grandchild. She spoke softly, and caringly, but she didn't allow little bears to do things that would make the town an unpleasant place to be.

She knew that little growing cubs mostly needed interesting things to do, lots of fun learning opportunities, and special time with their parents and being together as a family.

“To be able to build a nice friendly community, little ones need to know what a family is. They need to know there is someone in charge who has the right to tell them what is best or not best to do.

Then they need brothers and sisters to play with who will be their friend. Then they need fun time all together, with parents and brothers and sisters, just doing nice things.

They need time to talk with each other, time to eat together, time to learn and explore together, to be out in nature together, and have a quiet and cozy place to sleep.

“When they have first learned what a family is, then they can understand what a community is—we can be like one big happy family, all helping each other live happy and safe lives. We can learn from each other, and help keep each other doing the right thing, so that everyone feels included, and loved, and learning what is best.”

So the first step, to a happy town—the kind of town that her son Berry Beary Kind worked hard to help—was always to hold, and cuddle, and care well for the newest little members.

“There is not one of these new little cubs that are unneeded in this town,” Berry Beary Gentle would tell visitors, as she helped to wash, change, and hold these little ones.

“Each one of these holds a key to victory in something our town will need, when they are just the right age to help provide it. We don’t know what it is—because we don’t know exactly what the future will be like. But if we care for and train these new ones right—and let them develop into whoever they are meant to be, and learn the skills they are interested in—we’ll all be very glad one day. Without them—each one of them—something very important would be missing in the future of our town.”

The mothers of these cubs liked to hear this. It was great to think of their little ones as being the heroes in some situation, one day. The mothers felt the joy and courage to do their best to raise them carefully, and cherish them for the unique and irreplaceable treasures that they were.

Berry Beary Gentle still had her own little one at home. Berry Big Beary was having a “Daddy Day” with his young son, while Berry Beary Gentle had spent the day helping and encouraging other mothers.

Berry Beary Gentle greeted her young son, and older daughter—Berry Bella, with big bear hugs, and asked them all about their day.

Her son was happy to tell of all the fun things he had done with his daddy—everything from carpet cleaning with his older brother’s special carpet cleaning contraption, to flying paper airplanes off the highest building in the town, together with some other eager participants.

Berry Bella had prepared a special meal to welcome her mother back, and that night Berry Beary Kind would join them as well. It would be a fun family event to celebrate all the joy they saw and gave and experienced that day.

They talked of things that they noticed that weren't as great as they should be, so that Berry Beary Kind could take note of it and see what could be done to continue to improve things, making living in Berry Beary Town the best experience possible.

But they didn't just say something that needed improving, being the idea bears that they were, they always included a fun or interesting idea or possible solutions; something to get Berry Beary Kind thinking and started on, so he didn't have to think up and dream up everything.

He was glad for the suggestions of his family members. Some things could be done right away, others were best to wait until a more refined or adapted version of the idea could be thought up and implemented. But one way or the other, it was a lively and interesting time of discussion at their family meal.

When a suggestion for a solution was made that the others didn't think would work out so well, they didn't say so, at least not right away. It was good to let others think and contribute, without putting them down.

Berry Beary Kind needed all the ideas and help, and if someone was discouraged from adding in their own ideas, then something would be missed.

Maybe just exactly what someone said wouldn't be possible in just the way they said it and would need some fine tuning—or even would be unadvisable to use that idea at all, still it might help trigger a new idea that would be a good one.

So Berry Beary Kind wrote down all the suggestions and insights, and all the good things that were noticed about that happy and thriving town.

“Cheers!” they all said, at the end of the meal, while holding up their glasses of freshly squeezed juice made by Beary Bella, from their own orange tree.

The loving support of family made it possible for Berry Beary Kind to do his best to make things best for others—and for his family too. As everyone helped everyone else, everyone was helped in return.

Just then a beep went off. Berry Beary Gentle looked at her text messaging device. It was a message from one of the mothers she had helped about a year before, and had been in contact with. “Cub is one year old today!” is what the message said.

Berry Beary Gentle smiled, and felt like celebrating along with the mother.

“Congratulations!” she typed back quickly, and then focused again on her family there.

She felt like she was a part of many families, and welcome wherever she went. Giving love is what made her welcomed, and a needed part of many families.

“We need each family member. We need each larger family group, of our relations. And we need the larger collection of all those in our town. We all need each other, and can contribute in our own, special ways,” said Berry Big Beary.

Everyone cheered, and ended with a special snack that Berry Bella had made together with her youngest brother, Berry Beary Fun.

Everyone clapped and thanked young Berry Beary Fun for the important part he played in making their family meal and celebration a special one.

Berry Beary Kind Series:  
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