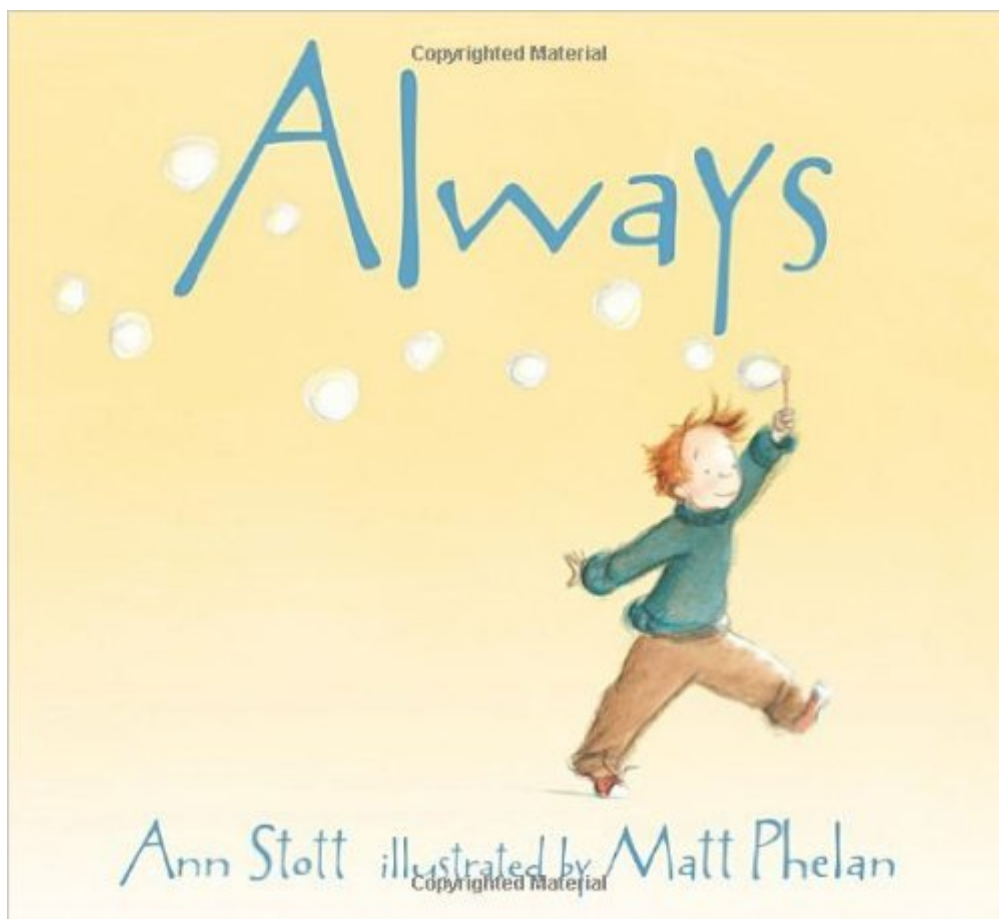


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# Always



## Synopsis

Children everywhere will be comforted by this universal tale, in which a young boy is assured that his mother loves him "no matter what he does." "Do you love me when I finger-paint with toothpaste on the bathroom mirror?" As he goes through a day, a child asks his mother for reassurance with a series of questions. Does she love him when he's gentle? Does she love him when he's not? Does she love him when he jumps in puddles wearing his new sneakers? Simple, charming, and disarming, Ann Stott's story will resonate with little listeners and adults alike. Matt Phelan's funny, poignant drawings capture the child's behavior, both good and bad, and the mother's unconditional love.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 250L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (August 12, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763632325

ISBN-13: 978-0763632328

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #557,464 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs](#) #101 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Addiction & Recovery > Smoking](#) #1379 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#)

Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

This is a simple book with the sweetest message. A little boy questions the specifics of his mother's love. Do you love me when I remember to feed my hamster? Do you love me when I don't? Do you love me when I'm in my time-out chair? Oh, the mind of a child - you can practically see the wheels turning. The font and illustrations set the tone of this book perfectly. Even on his worst behavior, this little guy looks so lovable. He's disheveled and a bit dirty, he's terrorizing the dog, not following directions and wearing unders over his pants. The illustrations also offer a subtle humor - notably

the dog's antics and facial expressions on nearly every page. The boy's mom may be exasperated, but she loves him with all her heart. What a great book to show your child you love them equally when they are on their best behavior and at their naughtiest. This also serves as a good reminder for adults that kids need to be reassured that mom and dad will love them no matter what.

Most children grow up knowing and being told often that their parents love them. But it's human nature to try to "earn" love, to feel we are loved as long as we . In this book, a little boy asks his continually asks his mom if she loves him when he does something well AND when he doesn't. It depicts a child's desire to be loved and the unconditional way a parent loves. The message behind this book is charming and sincere. It reminds me of a poem (don't ask me the name...) I loved when I was young about a small child that was continually messing up while trying to seek his mom's approval. I thought that poem was so funny and just loved it. It struck a cord with me, as I know this book must with many young children. This book is the companion book to I'll Be There, also by Ann Stott. Like that book, the illustrations here by Matt Phelan are beautiful. In some ways, the words tell the story better than the text, which is both a strength and a weakness of this book. Often the little boy says, "Do you love me when I ? Do you love me when I don't?" While I love text (It helps to promote language in kids and babies!), I also felt in certain places, the "Do you love me when I don't?" question would have been better left unsaid but simply drawn, the way it already is. Still, this book, like I'll Be There, I am certain will be a favorite in my house among the kids. Like I said, it speaks the mind of a child so well, and they will appreciate that.

Someone passed this book down to us so I was reading it to our boys ages 5,3,1. And it seemed nice. I guess an easy way for an unimaginative author to make a quick buck. But then it kept getting worse, listing all the behaviors I would prefer my children not do. I put to down when it came to smearing toothpaste on the bathroom mirror and I could see a light bulb go off in my 3 year's head. I was afraid of what would be listed next. I don't agree with reading a list of things not to do to kids. They can figure them out on the own without any help from a book. I'd rather fill their heads with more positive things.

Ann Stott has written a sweet little book about a boy who asks "do you love me" when he does various good, and not so good, things. I love the illustrations, and I'm sure there's a few pages/paragraphs that children will delight over. Basically this book is a nice reinforcement of a parent's unending love. The book doesn't go into the possible repercussions of not-so-good

behavior, but that's not really the point of this book. And, for what the book is meant to do, I think it does it beautifully!

I am a preschool teacher for three year olds, and I read this book to 50 people at our Mother's Day Tea. The mothers and children all loved it. A grandmother cried at the end! The simple text and beautiful pictures make this book a must read when you are trying to convey the unconditional love mothers bestow upon their children.

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