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I Love You More Than...

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Not all parents have the opportunity to be with their young children full-time. In this story, a father who is often separated from his son tells of the many reasons he loves him. In the beginning, he reassures him by saying, “My child. I am not always with you as much as I’d like. And when we’re not together, I miss you. You are always running around in my mind and chilling inside my heart.”

As the book goes on, the father gives many “I love you more than …” statements, followed by a related memory. For example, “I love you more than I love singing … But I love to belt out your favorite la la la lullaby before you fall asleep.” There are plenty of joint activities he reminisces about, like dancing, watching 3-D movies, eating out, and going to the beach. His final caring words are “I love you. I love you. I just love you.”

Though this unique book isn’t very relevant to fully intact families, it’s quite valuable for those who find themselves in the same situation as this father-child pair. (Whether the child is male or female isn’t important, since the child is illustrated in an ambiguous way and could be interpreted as either gender.) The full two-page spread illustrations feature mostly soft, cool colors that contribute to the delicate, peaceful, and tender mood of the book. Father and child are usually featured on separate pages, noting their separateness while also displaying their unity. Overall, this is an excellent book that can help children to know they are still loved by their separated parent, and it can also encourage fathers in their efforts to stay attached to their little ones.