

Bapa in the Back Yard

**by Bapa
(Grandpa)**

**for
Forrest
on his 4th birthday**

June 9, 2010



Bapa in the Back Yard

**Bapa wants to show you some of the
interesting wild life that he
encountered in his back yard this
spring. Some are pretty, and some are
a bit scary. Are you ready?**



Charles the Chipmunk

**The first friend from spring that
Bapa met was Charles the Chipmunk.
Charles likes to eat nuts and fruit, and
he scampers all over the place with his
friends.**

Do you think Charles is scary?



Keri the Cardinal

**Just about every day, Bapa sees
Keri the Cardinal, or one of her
friends. Bapa never gets tired of
seeing Cardinals.**

Do you like seeing Cardinals?



Fanny the Frog

**Fanny was just one of many frogs
Bapa found swimming in the pool this
spring. Fanny, who is part of the
reptile family of the animal kingdom,
was sunning herself on the concrete.
She may have been ready to lay some
of her eggs.**



Sammy the Snake

**Brian, who mows Bapa's lawns,
discovered Sammy the Snake sunning
himself on a plastic tarp way in the
back of the yard. Snakes are also
reptiles.**

**A person should NEVER touch any
wildlife – no matter how cute it looks –
for many good reasons. In particular,
we need to stay away from snakes, as
they may be poisonous.**

**Bapa sent Vicky the County
Biologist a picture of Sammy. Vicky
said Sammy was not venomous, but
that we should always stay away from
snakes in Virginia just in case.**

Are you afraid of snakes?

**Well, maybe we should just think of
them – like all God's creatures – as
harmless, useful, and indestructible;
and as always worthy of our respect.**

**So we don't have to be afraid of
wild animals. We just need to keep
our distance from them.**



Toby the Tick

Bapa was outside working in the yard one morning. He suddenly noticed that Toby the Tick had attached himself to the skin of Bapa's side, just above his belt. How'd he get there? Toby was just trying to get some blood for a meal.

But remembering that Toby, as an animal in God's kingdom, was just doing what was natural, Bapa wasn't

**afraid. But he did have a neighbor
nearby carefully pluck Toby out with
some tweezers.**

**You should always check yourself
for bugs after playing outside. That's
why baths at night are *especially*
useful.**



Louis the Lion

**Louis the Lion was seen still
guarding the pool this spring.**

**Do you think he needs some extra
gold paint?**



Nessie the Lock Ness Monster

**Who do you see hiding in the
bushes? That's right, it's Nessie!**

**(She's our friendly, pretend back-
yard monster.)**

**Are you scared of her? Why not?
You're right: because she is just make
believe – just like *all* monsters.**

**Now, do you know what the scariest
thing in Bapa's back yard just may
very well be?**



Are you ready to find out?

Are you *sure*?

Are you *sure* that
you are sure?

Then close your eyes

– and quickly turn the page!



It's Bapa in a Beard!

Happy Birthday,

Forrest!

**On the following pages, you may
add your own pictures and make up
your own stories. Do you think that
would be fun?**