

Betsy gets spring fever

Top: Betsy swings into spring in this cheery cardigan and navy tank dress (from Joan Vass). **Bottom:** The striped baseball shirt and blue overalls (from Osh Kosh B'Gosh) suit a slugger just fine.

Before cutting Betsy out, paste the page onto sturdy oaktag.



Lately it has been so cold and rainy, but today I woke up and the sun was on my face. It made me feel so happy. At breakfast Mom said, "Betsy, have you heard the birds singing? It's a beautiful day!" And it was. When Josh and I were waiting for the bus, we tied our jackets around our waists.

At school Mrs. Fletcher said we were "buzzing." She said the first warm days of spring always give kids spring fever, and all they think about is playing outdoors. It was true! During math I kept looking out the window and thinking about things I can't wait to do. Like softball practice. There is a girls' league in my town, and we start in two weeks. This year I want to be a really good hitter. I want to get a home run and have everyone cheering for me.

And I can't wait to play marbles with my friend Ellie. We've been collecting all sorts of colors, but I like the shiny blue ones best. There's a good place to play in my yard where there's lots of dirt and no grass.

I was thinking about these things when I heard Mrs. Fletcher saying "Betsy . . . Earth to Betsy!" She had asked me a question, and I hadn't been listening at all. I felt my face turn totally red. Just then the bell rang and school was over for the day.

Then I got the best surprise. Dad came to pick me up after school. He said he had left work early so we could have some fun on such a nice day. In the backseat of the car there were two kites! We went to the park and flew them until it started to get dark. There was a good wind, and I got mine to go really high. Dad showed me how to guide the kite by pulling on the string. It took *forever* to wind up the string and bring them back down.

On the way home we saw that our favorite drive-in, the Cherry-Top, had *just* opened up for the spring and summer. It's my favorite place to go, because they hook your tray onto the car window. Dad said that we shouldn't be getting treats before supper, but we both had some ice cream (with a cherry on top!). I guess dads get spring fever too.

