

## **8. Will You Be My Mom?**

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*This song is based upon a true story! In the tsunami of 2005, a baby hippo got swept away from his family by a giant wave. The fishermen who rescued the hippo named him Owen, and brought him to Haller Wildlife Park in Kenya, Africa. That's where Owen met Mzee, the 130-year-old giant tortoise. The two of them are close friends to this day!*

Owen, the baby hippo  
Lived with his hippo family  
Till one day a great wave  
Swept him out to sea  
Fishermen saved the hippo  
Took him into a wildlife park  
He hid behind a giant tortoise there  
And stayed till after dark, Singing:

**Will you be my mom?  
You look good to me  
I'm alone and far from home  
And I need a family!  
Will you be my mom?  
And take good care of me  
I'm too young to have no one  
Please keep me company!**

**"You're kidding, right?"** laughed the tortoise.  
**You don't even have a shell like mine  
My name's M-Zee, the Old Man!  
I'm not the mothering kind!"**  
But Owen the baby hippo  
Snuggled right up to old M-Zee  
Lay his head on that tortoise shell  
And fell asleep right away! Singing:

**Will you be my mom?...**

*They ate together, played together, napped together, too  
Lounging in a pool of mud was their favorite thing to do!*

Now Owen is feeling better.  
He's pinkish and brown and fat again  
M-zee is always smiling  
'Cause he has found a friend!

And he says:  
**Sure, I'll be your mom  
You stick to me like glue!  
After all this time together  
I've grown fond of you!**

**Sure, I'll be your mom  
Now I know that's wise  
I'll wipe your chin and tuck you in  
And sing you lullabies!**