Room to Play

DAY 01

Ben brings his ball to the park. Mina comes to play too. But there is litter on the grass. They need a clean place to play.





An adult helps them sort the litter. "What can you put in the recycling bin?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I can recycle an empty can." Ben points to an empty can.

They put the paper and bottles in the right bins. The adult carries a big empty box. Now the grass is clear. There is room for their game.





Ben kicks the ball. It rolls straight into the empty box. "Goal!" calls Mina. Ben grins. "This box makes a great goal!"

One Warm Pair

DAY 02

Snow covers the yard. Mina and Ben want to play outside. They get their warm coats, hats, and boots ready.





Ben holds up one glove. "What will you wear on a cold day?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I'll wear gloves to keep my hands warm." "One is missing!" he adds.

They look under the chair and beside the door. Mina picks up Ben's hat. Something soft is hiding inside it.





It is the missing glove! Ben puts both gloves on and wiggles his fingers. Now his hands are ready for snow.

Flowers for a Visitor

DAY 03

Mina and Ben see a bee in the garden. It lands on a yellow flower. The children watch from a safe distance.





"What is the bee doing in the garden?" asks Ben. Mina says, "It is moving inside the flower." Yellow pollen sticks to its body.

Dad explains that bees can carry pollen between flowers. The bee flies away and visits another flower nearby.





Ben was going to pick the flowers. Now he leaves them growing. "More flowers for our little visitors," he says.

The Blue Window

DAY 04

At the aquarium, Mina and Ben stand by a big blue window. Bright fish swim past their faces.





"What can you spot in the water?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I can spot a turtle near the surface." They watch it come up for air.

Mina spots something beside a rock. Ben thinks it is another rock. Then two little claws begin to move.





"A crab!" Ben whispers. They draw it in their notebooks. Even the smallest animals can be exciting to find.

Help for a Big Fish

DAY 05

Ben reads a story about a whale shark. It is a fish, not a whale. A team works together to help it.





Mina looks at a picture of a beach with plastic litter on it. "How can we help sea animals?" asks Ben. Mina says, "We can pick up litter with an adult."

The next day, they join Dad at a beach cleanup. They use gloves and ask an adult to handle anything sharp.





They fill one bag with litter. Ben looks out at the water. "Our small jobs can help a very big sea."

The Empty Basket

DAY 06

Mina and Ben spread a blanket under a tree. Mina opens her basket. It is full of sandwiches, apples, and carrots.





Ben opens his basket too. It is empty! He brought the wrong one from home. His shoulders drop.

"Shall we share our picnic food?" asks Mina. Ben says, "Let's share the carrots at our picnic." There is enough food for both of them. They pass the apples and carrots back and forth.





After lunch, Ben packs the cups and blanket in his empty basket. "My basket has an important job too!" he says.

Slow on the Snow

DAY 07

Mina and Ben bring a sled to the park. Dad chooses a small, clear hill away from roads and trees.





The path is icy in one place. "How shall we move on the slippery path?" asks Dad. Mina says, "Let's move carefully with small steps."

They take small steps and reach the hill. Ben waits until the way is clear. Then Dad helps him start.





Ben slides to the bottom and moves aside. Now Mina can have a turn. Waiting makes their snowy game work.

The Mystery Snack

DAY 08

Dad puts two bowls on the table. One has orange pieces. The other has lemon pieces. Mina looks from one bowl to the other.

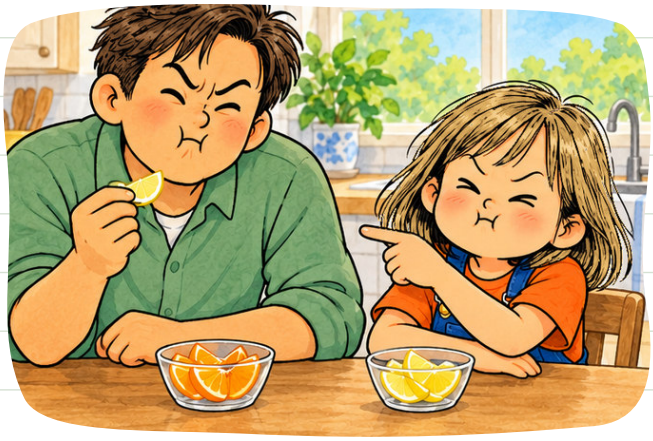




"Try a little piece," says Dad. Mina chooses the yellow lemon. She takes a tiny bite. Her eyes get big.

"How does this snack taste?" asks Dad. Mina says, "It tastes sour, so I only want a little." Mina's nose wrinkles. She pushes the bowl toward Dad.





Dad tries the lemon. His face scrunches up too. Mina points to him. "We have the same face!"

The Wrong Sound

DAY 09

Mina and Ben visit a farm with their class. They stop by the cows and listen. "What sound does that animal make?" asks the teacher. Mina says, "A cow says moo in the field."





They walk to the sheep next. Ben is still thinking about the big brown cow.

"Moo!" says Ben to a little sheep. The sheep lifts its head and says, "Baa!" Ben blinks, then laughs.





On the way home, they play an animal sound game. This time Ben remembers. The sheep gets the right sound!

A Cool Plan

DAY 10

Mina and Ben play tag in the yard. Soon their faces feel hot. They stop and walk back to Mom.





"How can we cool down outside?" asks Mina. Mom says, "We can drink water and rest." Mom brings water, and they sit in the shade. A little rest feels good.

Ben finds some paper and folds it back and forth. He opens it into a fan. Mina makes one too.



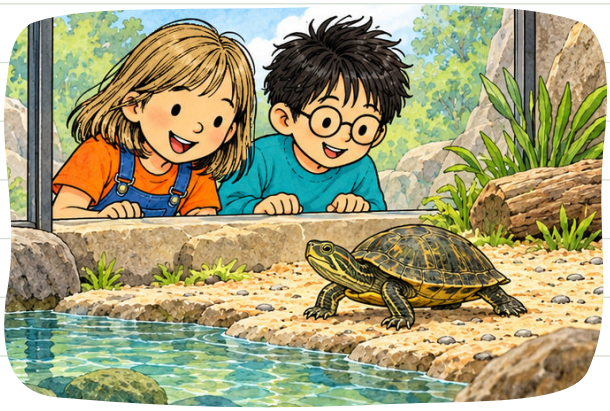


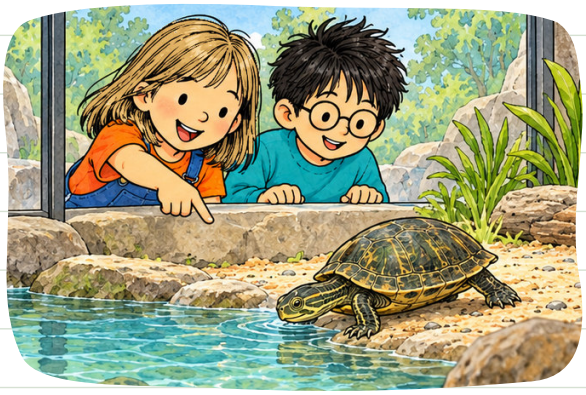
They fan their faces and tell stories quietly. When the day is cooler, they can run again. For now, this is fun.

Slow and Steady

DAY 11

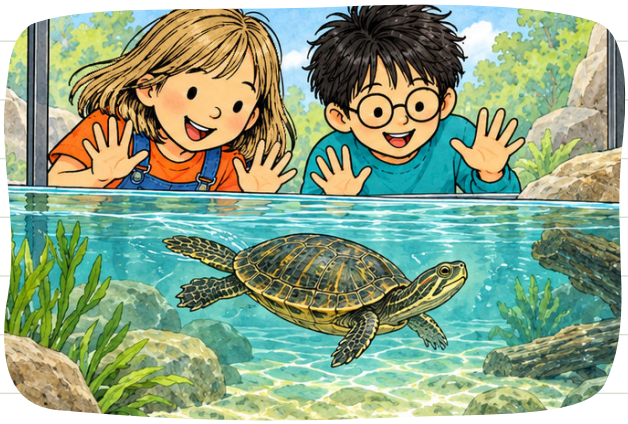
Leo and Mina watch a turtle through the glass. The turtle takes one slow step. Then it takes another.

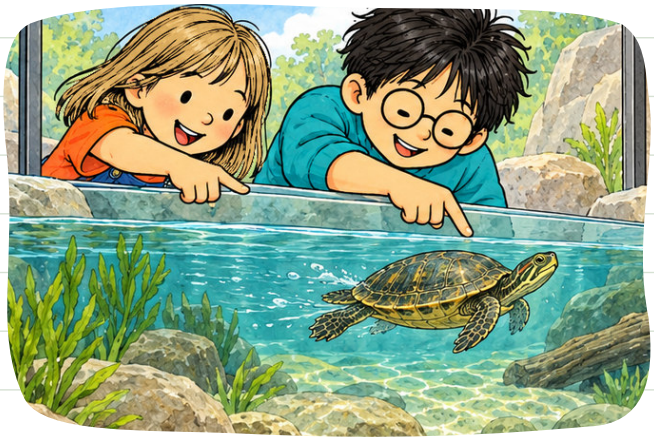




"How does this reptile move around?" asks Leo. Mina says, "It walks slowly on land." Mina points to a little pool. "Can it swim too?"

The turtle reaches the water. In it goes! Now it moves its legs and swims. Mina and Leo watch it go.





Leo moves his finger along the glass. The turtle swims right past it. "You win!" says Leo. Mina points to the speedy turtle.

Hello from Here

DAY 12

Mina draws a map for a new classmate. She draws the school, the park, and the little street where she lives.





"Can you tell me where you live?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I live in an apartment beside the park." Ben draws a tall apartment building close to the park.

Their new friend adds a house on another street. It does not fit on the paper, so they tape on another sheet.





Now the map reaches across the table. They draw a path from each home to the school. Their map is getting bigger.

The Ribbon Test

DAY 13

Ben looks out of the window. "I cannot see the wind," he says. Mina finds a light ribbon in her craft box.





They go outside and hold the ribbon up. It waves to one side. "What can the wind move in the garden?" asks Mina. Ben says, "It can move the ribbon in my hand."

Ben points to leaves and a flag. They watch the ribbon stop when the wind stops, then move again.





They hang the ribbon by the garden gate. Now it is their little wind sign. Something invisible has left a clue.

The Cup Trick

DAY 14

Ben wants to put on a magic show. He places a small ball under a cup on the table. "Where is the little ball now?" asks Ben. Mina says, "It is under the cup on the table." Then he asks her to watch closely.





Ben waves one hand and tilts the cup with the other. Then he lifts it. "Where is the ball?" he asks. The ball is gone.

Then Mina sees the ball rolling beside Ben's shoe. The table is a little tilted. His trick has taken a new path!





Ben bows and picks up the ball. "A moving trick!" he says. Mina claps for the funniest magic show she has seen.

Learning One Step at a Time

DAY 15

Mina and Ben read about young orangutans. The animals learn useful skills from their mothers or people who care for them.





"What are you learning to do?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I am learning to balance on a low beam." They go to a low playground beam.

Ben stretches out his arms and takes one step. He wobbles and steps down safely. Then he tries again.





This time he takes three steps. Mina smiles. "You learned a little more!" Ben smiles too. Small steps can add up.

A Bridge for the Castle

DAY 16

Mina builds a castle with blocks. Blue paper makes water all around it. Ben brings a little toy horse to visit.





"How can we cross the pretend river?" asks Ben. Mina says, "We can use a bridge made of paper." Mina lays a thin paper strip over the water. The horse makes it bend.

Ben folds another strip several times. It feels stronger. They rest each end on a block and try the horse again.





The bridge holds! The horse crosses to the castle. Mina adds a sign: Welcome. Every visitor needs a safe way in.

The Leaf Picture

DAY 17

Mina and Ben walk past their favorite tree. Last month it had green leaves. Today yellow and red leaves cover the path.





"What has changed since summer?" asks Mina. Ben says, "The leaves have changed from green to yellow." Ben looks up and then down. "Some have fallen too."

They collect a few dry leaves from the ground. At home, they arrange them on paper like a big leafy bird.





Ben adds two paper eyes. Mina hangs the picture beside their summer drawing. The two pictures tell a story of change.

A Window in the Sky

DAY 18

Ben takes a plane with Mom to visit Grandpa. He fastens his seat belt and listens to the flight attendant.





The plane rises above the town. "What can you see below the plane?" asks Mom. Ben says, "I can see houses that look very small."

Roads look like lines, and fields look like patches. Soon clouds hide the ground. Ben draws the view in his notebook.





When he gets home, Ben shows Mina his drawing. "The houses were not really small," he explains. "We were very high!"

Move Like a Machine

DAY 19

On a rainy day, Mina and Ben make a moving game. Mina stretches one arm high like the arm of a crane.





"How can you move like a machine?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I can bend my knees slowly." Ben bends his knees and pretends to steer a tractor. He makes a gentle engine sound.

They clear a space and move slowly. Mina turns like a wheel. Ben marches like a machine with big, steady steps.





Mom holds up a paper stop sign. Both machines stop at once. Then the children switch jobs and start a new round.

A Helpful Hero

DAY 20

Ben ties a short cape around his shoulders for pretend play. "I am a hero!" he says. "What can a helper do?" Mina asks.





Ben thinks about flying high above the town. Just then, Mina drops her crayons. They roll in every direction.

"What can a helper do at home?" asks Mina. Ben says, "A helper can pick things up from the floor." Ben kneels down and helps collect the crayons. He finds one under the chair and another beside the door.





"You helped me!" says Mina. Ben smiles. His feet never left the floor, but he has done something useful.