

Shall we play?

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with contributions from
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Information for parents/teachers

Objectives:

- ❖ To explore children's worries about starting school
- ❖ To rehearse in a safe environment the possible actions in response to others' behaviour
- ❖ To discuss possible consequences of their actions
- ❖ To explore positive ways of making friends

What's this story about?

This story is based on research with children moving to primary school. Children's worries revolve around making friends, knowing the difference in rules of the primary school compared to the preschool setting, adults expecting them to be independent and dealing with different behaviours according to the context they find themselves in.

Talk together

Use the story to discuss the different responses that the child/ren might have to a scenario. Involve them in the story by asking what they might do in a similar situation. Provide opportunities of talking through their reaction to the situation and potential consequences.

Read the story

You can read the story with one child or a group of children. Children could also use role play to understand different perspectives.

Play a game

You can play a game with them using the story. For example, you can ask them to spot things in the pictures, such as children wearing uniform, playground, etc. You can go to a primary school and compare. The play could be around emotions and how the expressions might reflect the emotions.

Other ideas

You could do research on what schools are around your area, colours of uniform, how old the children are when they start school in other countries, pictures of children going to school, etc.

Some children are in the primary school playground.

"Higher Max, higher," giggle and shriek Chris and Sophie as he pushes them on the swings.



"Careful Angela, don't fall off," says Tania as Angela nearly falls off the stepping stones.

Simon turns back to watch Angela, "You can hold my hand."

Scott comes over and watches them. Everybody is busy chatting and laughing. They don't see him standing there. He comes to the stepping stones and pushes Tania off the stepping stones. She gets hurt and starts crying. Scott starts singing, "Cry baby, cry baby!!"

The other children look up and...

What do you think happened next? If you think:

1. **Angela speaks with Scott and Tania- go to page 3**
2. **Max gets the head teacher Mr Simpson- go to page 5**
3. **Chris laughs at Tania- go to page 6**
4. **Simon pushes Scott- go to page 7**
5. ***Create your own: Imagine you are Tania. What would you do?***

Angela speaks with Scott and Tania

Angela helps Tania up and takes her to wash her knee.



She then goes to speak with Scott.

Angela: "Scott why did you push Angela?"

Scott: "I didn't mean to hurt her."

Angela: "Then why did you push her?"

Scott: "I asked her in the dining hall if she'll play with me and she said no."

Angela: "You still shouldn't push her. Why didn't you ask me?"

Scott: "You weren't there. You had packed lunch."



Angela: "I'll play with you Scott but you shouldn't push."

Scott: "I am sorry Angela. I'll say sorry to Tania."

Angela goes to speak with Tania: "Why did you say no to playing with Scott?"

Tania: "I don't want to play with him. He's not clever."

Angela: "That's not a very nice thing to say."

Tania: "I was playing with him yesterday but Max teased me."

Angela: "What did he say?"

Tania: "He sang 'Tania is silly, she is playing with Scott'. I don't want others to make fun of me."

Go to page 8.

Max gets the head teacher Mr Simpson

Max goes and helps Tania up.

Max shouts: "Scott you are a bad boy. Stop laughing. Stop it right now."

Scott: "Why should I? You can't make me-I am not scared of you!"

Max: "Leave her alone. I am going to tell Mr Simpson."



Max fetches Mr Simpson. They see Scott and Tania playing.

Mr Simpson: "Why did you call me, Max? They are playing nicely."

Max: "...but...but Scott pushed her off the stepping stones..."

Mr Simpson: "Max, are you sure? I told you it's not good to tell on others."

Max: "...but Mr Simpson..."

Mr Simpson: "Tania what happened earlier?"

Tania: "Nothing Mr Simpson. Scott pushed me because I said I didn't want to play with him. But he said sorry, so we are friends now."

Go to page 8.

Chris laughs at Tania

Chris thinks it is funny and joins Scott.

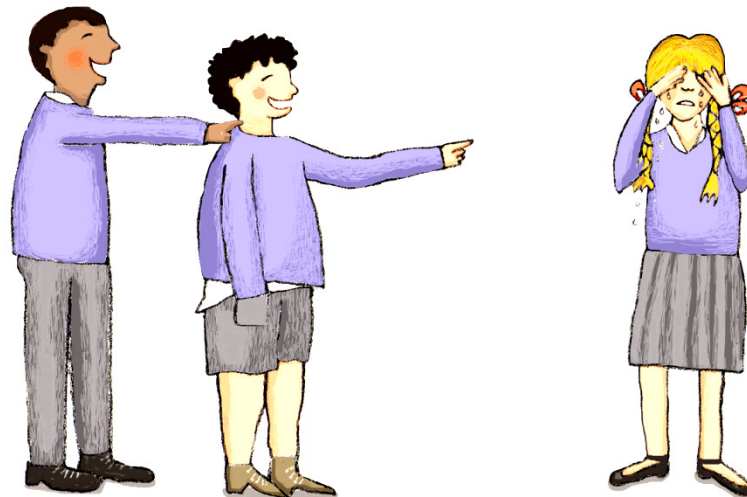
Chris: "Tania is a cry baby. She was like this at nursery."

Tania sobs: "I am not a cry baby. I am a big school girl."

Chris sings: "No you're not...you are a tiny, tiny, cry baby."

Tania carries sobbing: "I'll tell my mummy."

Scott: "Tania is a cry baby. She'll run to her mummy."



Tania cries louder and Scott and Chris dance around her singing "Tania is a cry baby...Tania is a cry baby."

Go to page 8.

Simon pushes Scott

Simon: "You are bad Scott."

Scott cries in pain: "That hurt. I have blood coming from my knee..."

Simon: "Serves you right! Now you know how Tania felt you big bully."



Mr Simpson comes to the playground just then as Max had told him about Scott pushing Tania.

Mr Simpson: "What happened Scott?"

Scott crying: "Simon pushed me."

Simon: "He pushed Tania first. He's a bully Mr Simpson."

Mr Simpson: "What about you Simon? What are you then?"

Go to page 8.

Activities for parents/teachers to discuss with child/ren:

Option 1

- What do you think is happening?
- Why did Scott push Tania?
- Why did Scott say sorry to Tania?
- How did Angela help?
- What do you think might happen next? *(Help them look for positive resolution)*

Option 2

- Why did Max call Mr Simpson?
- Was that the right thing to do? Why?
- What should Mr Simpson have done?
- What do you think might happen next? *(Help them look for positive resolution)*

Option 3:

- How was Tania feeling?
- What should Chris have done?
- What could Tania have done to stop the teasing?
- What do you think might happen next? *(Help them look for positive resolution)*

Option 4:

- Why did Simon push Scott?
- What should Simon have done?
- Who is the bully in this story?
- What do you think might happen next? *(Help them look for positive resolution)*

Please read different options with the child/ren and revisit the story as many times as appropriate.

This book is part of a series of educational resources designed to facilitate transition to primary school. This book can be used with children either about to move to primary school or when they have started school. Parents and teachers can use this book with children to explore positive friendships and relationships as well as the potential consequences of their actions.

Dr Divya Jindal-Snape is Reader at the University of Dundee. This story book is based on research conducted by her in the area of educational transitions. The concept and main scenario emerged from this research. The subsequent options emerged from discussions with Nik (10 years) and Anjini (8 years) regarding how children aged 5 to 8 years might respond to particular scenarios. Their perspective grounded this story book into children's real and perceived world. The educational information and activities are again informed by Divya's research.

Johanne Cameron, Freelance Illustrator, graduated from the BA (Hons) Illustration Course, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, University of Dundee.

Please contact Divya with any feedback and examples of how you have used this story book with children on d.jindalsnape@dundee.ac.uk

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