



THE ENVIRONMENT

# **“Taking care of the earth: recycling and saving energy”**

Ref. 20821



# TAKING CARE OF THE EARTH: RECYCLING AND SAVING ENERGY

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## CONTENTS

- 30 STORY-CARDS (illustrated) of 13.5 x 16.5 cm featuring 6 stories (5 illustrations per story).
- 1 ONLINE AUDIO MP3 containing the 6 different stories in various languages. The AUDIO MP3 also contains the texts of the stories and black and white drawings for colouring in.
- 1 guide to using the AUDIO MP3
- 5 wooden supports

## METHOD OF PLAY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE

Contains 6 entertaining stories that relate the adventures of a brother and sister who learn some simple methods of recycling and saving energy. Each story consists of five illustrated cards which need to be used in order following the story script in the AUDIO MP3.

### 1. Familiarization with the material:

We recommend that teachers read or listen to the stories first to familiarize themselves with the illustrations before working with the children. Thus before using the material as a whole, you can tell the children about some of the methods used for saving water mentioned in the stories so they can familiarize themselves with the new vocabulary. In this process you could use the black and white illustrations included on the AUDIO MP3 for colouring in. Once the teacher and children are familiar with the material:

2. Group the cards according to their coloured border.
3. Select a track/story from the AUDIO MP3 and take the cards in the relevant colour (as shown in the enclosed guide to using the AUDIO MP3).
4. Listen to the story and put the cards in order (initially with the teacher helping the children; then by the children on their own).
5. Check that the order is correct by looking at the back of the cards.

To work with the children as a group, we recommend propping the cards on the wooden supports provided so everyone can see the illustrations properly.

## RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP

From age 3 upwards.

## PSYCHO-PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- Learning the APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURAL HABITS in terms of the conservation and care of our planet: Saving Water.
- Developing listening skills.
- Learning about notions of time (before, later, afterwards, etc.).
- Learning about logical time sequencing by putting the scenes in the right order.
- Stimulating and enriching language use: It motivates children's speech and starts them off on structuring language.
- Helping to enrich vocabulary and assimilate complex language structures.
- Helping to learn other languages.



## ACTIVITIES

1. The children should listen attentively to the story before putting the story-cards in order.
2. With the story-cards on the table, and while listening to the story, the children should select the corresponding story card and place them in order. Once the story has finished, they should turn over each card and check that they are in the correct numerical order, from 1 to 5.
3. With the story-cards on the table, once the children are already familiar with the story, they should put them in the right order without having to listen to the story again.
4. With the story-cards laid out in order on the table, the children should tell the story themselves.
5. With the story-cards laid out on the table, the children should place them in the correct order while telling the story.
6. Develop the child's understanding of the **saving method** shown on each card by telling the story.



## 1. We can save energy, too!

The best days at school were always the ones when there was some kind of outing, especially if that included a trip to the Natural Science Museum, where there was an exhibition on "The Earth's Energy". After getting there on the coach, the teacher explained to the students that the Earth's energy was a scarce resource and for that reason it was very important to use electricity responsibly. That day, Maddie and Luke understood why the clocks changed twice a year and Luke always asked whether he was getting one hour more or one hour less sleep. "The clocks change so we can take advantage of the daylight and use less electricity," Maddie reminded him.

During dinner that night with their parents, Maddie and Luke told them excitedly about everything they'd seen and heard in the Museum. They had been given loads of tips on saving energy. Their father suggested that what they should do was put all those tips into practice every day. "If all of us do our bit, the natural resources of the Earth will last longer," he ended up saying.

That night, after dinner, Maddie and Luke watched television for a while. They were watching a documentary on hurricanes, which really left a big impression on them. When the programme finished, their mother reminded them that it was a bit late, and if they didn't get straight to bed it would be impossible to get them up the next day. So Luke turned off the television with the remote control. His father asked him if he hadn't forgotten something. The two siblings looked at each other in puzzlement - they'd done their homework, they'd finished their dinner, and they'd brushed their teeth.

"What have we forgotten, dad?"

"If nobody else is going to be watching any television until tomorrow," said their father, "It's better to turn off the television completely with the button on the TV set, not with the remote control, because otherwise that little red light stays on all night and carries on using electricity."

"That's true, dad," said Luke, going over to the TV set and pressing the 'off' button.

The next morning, as it was Saturday, the alarm clock went off a bit later than usual and the sun was already up. Maddie and Luke's room was dark because the blind was down. Maddie went to turn on her bedside light, but her brother said:

"Wait, Maddie, don't turn it on, remember that we've got to save electricity."

Then he bounded out of bed, went over to the window and raised the blind, letting the sunlight in. Now the room was well-lit, and with no need to waste electricity.

"Well done Luke," said Maddie as she got out of bed.

And now it was time to use the bathroom. Luke went in first, and when he finished it was his sister's turn. Maddie left the bathroom all ready to go and have breakfast, but she stopped for a second as she was sure she'd forgotten to do something. She turned round, and saw that she had left the bathroom light on. She now knew how important it was not to leave the lights on, so she went back and switched it off.

Maddie and Luke had taken everything they'd learned the previous day very seriously, and were putting a lot of the energy-saving tips into practice.

## 2. Teaching the grandparents

Maddie and Luke went to spend the weekend with their grandparents. They both loved visiting them: listening to their grandfather's fantastic stories and eating their grandmother's delicious cakes was the best weekend they could possibly imagine. When they arrived, their grandparents were waiting for them at the door to give them a big hug. Maddie and Luke ran happily up to greet them.

Their grandfather loved listening to classical music on his old radio set. Luke always asked him how that ancient old radio kept working, because all his things always broke after a year. Maddie asked their grandfather why he used the transistor radio when he was sitting at home, when he could easily plug it in. Her grandfather hadn't even given it a thought, but Maddie explained that batteries are much more expensive and polluting and that in the house it was much better to use electricity. Her grandfather took note of his granddaughter's advice, and went in search of the radio cable, which Maddie finally found, and her grandfather plugged the radio into the wall socket. Meanwhile, Luke was trying, rather unsuccessfully, to dance to the music his granddad was listening to.

Today, Maddie was a real fountain of information and carried on giving her grandfather more advice about energy saving:

"It's not that using batteries is bad, it's just that if you're at home it's better to use electricity. That means you can use the batteries when you're not at home. Also, it's even better to use rechargeable batteries, because they last much longer and you won't need to use so many of them, because they told us at school that they really pollute the environment."

"What a clever granddaughter I've got", said her grandfather in surprise, which made Maddie blush as red as a beetroot.

"Maddie, tell him where you've got to throw used batteries," said Luke.

"Because batteries pollute the environment," continued Maddie, "You've got to throw them in special containers for used batteries."

"Oh yes," said her grandfather. "They're like little litter-bins with a special symbol on them."

That afternoon, Maddie and Luke went with their grandparents to buy rechargeable batteries for the times their grandfather needed to use his radio away from home. And to their surprise, the shop assistant also told them that if they wanted to save electricity at home, they could buy low-energy light bulbs.

"But these bulbs are a bit more expensive, aren't they?" asked their grandmother, who was always very much aware of what things cost.

"That's true, madam, but these bulbs last eight times longer than normal bulbs and they consume a lot less energy".

"They last *eight times longer* and use much less energy!" exclaimed Luke. "That's a *real* saving! Go for it granny, it's a great buy!"

The idea of the light bulbs was a very convincing one, so they bought several. When they got home, Maddie, Luke and their grandfather changed the bulbs in the lamps they used most, such as the ones in the living room, where the grandparents used to spend cosy evenings with their grandchildren. From now on, thanks to the advice of Maddie and Luke, their grandparents' home would start saving energy.

### 3. Advice for the parents

Although it was a very cold winter's morning, it was very sunny so it was the ideal weather for a family day out in the snow. Maddie and Luke had breakfast with their parents in the kitchen; Luke filled up his bowl with his favourite cereal and Maddie made some toast and jam. The two children were very excited because they were going on a trip to the mountains. Also, on the news it said that it had been snowing there and they were dying to go and play in the snow.

Before setting off, their father reminded them that they had to put on a wash as he had no clean shirts for the next day. Luke pulled a face because putting on the washing machine meant delaying their trip. His father reassured him by telling him not to worry, as it was so cold there was no chance of the snow melting. Maddie and Luke put all the dirty clothes in the laundry basket into the washing machine and their father selected the wash programme, turning the knob. Luke reminded his father that they had told him at school that it was much more environmentally-friendly to use a short wash programme with cold water. His father took note of his son's advice and put on a short, cold-water wash programme. "Plus this way we'll be able to get off on our trip earlier!" thought Luke to himself.

After a time, the washing machine drum stopped turning and Maddie and Luke took the damp laundry out on to the balcony and hung it out, taking advantage of the beautiful sunny day. Their father asked them why they were hanging the washing out when they had a perfectly good tumble dryer. Maddie explained to her father that using the tumble dryer was an unnecessary waste of electricity, seeing as they could take advantage of the lovely sunny day to dry the clothes in the open air.

"You're absolutely right, Maddie," said her father, very proud of his daughter's common sense.

In just a few minutes the whole family was ready to go. They wrapped up well and set off for the mountains, in search of snow.

In the afternoon they set off back home again. They had had a really fantastic day: Maddie and Luke had made a gigantic snowman and had also rocketed down a whole hillside on their sledge. They were tired out, but they still had to take the clothes off the line. After a whole day in the open air, the clothes were bound to be bone dry.

When they entered the house they started feeling really hot, and stripped off their gloves, hats, scarves, coats. How could it possibly be so hot? It was unbearable!

"Isn't the central heating on a bit high?" asked Luke.

His mother went to check the temperature and yes, indeed, they had left it on too high. Maddie took the chance to give her mother another tip: "When you're out of the house it's a waste of energy and money to leave the central heating on so high. It's better to leave it at a medium or low temperature to keep the air warm. That's just enough for you not to feel cold when you first come home." The children's parents congratulated them on how much they knew about looking after the planet and saving energy, and promised them that they would always follow their advice. Also, they suggested going back up to the mountains the following weekend. "Hooray!" shouted Maddie and Luke, jumping up and down with excitement.

#### 4. An afternoon at the cinema

Maddie and Luke hadn't seen their cousins who lived in the city for ages, so they decided to go and spend Saturday afternoon at the cinema with them. Maddie and Luke went with their father in the car to pick up their cousins who lived right in the city centre. When they got there, they saw it was very difficult to find anywhere to park. They went round and round and round but they couldn't find an empty space anywhere. Maddie and Luke started getting impatient because they didn't want to miss the film. Finally, they found a space and went running to their cousins' apartment, which was in a very tall building. They rang the bell and waited for them to come down.

The three cousins came running down the stairs of the apartment block and out of the door to greet them. Maddie and Luke thought it was strange that they hadn't used the lift. Their cousin explained that as they only lived on the second floor, they preferred to come down the stairs and anyway this left the lift free for elderly people or people with prams. At which Luke said:

"And it's also another way of saving energy!"

"And you're doing a bit of exercise," said Maddie, laughing and pointing to her dad's big tummy. Everyone laughed at Maddie's remark, even her father!

Once they were all together, they realised they had a problem: there were too many of them to get in the car. What could they do? Their father reassured them by saying he'd do two trips in the car. One of the cousins came up with the crazy idea of getting in the boot, but Luke had a much better idea:

"There's a bus stop very near by. We could all go on the bus together, which stops right by the cinema, and then we won't have any parking problems either."

"That'll be more fun anyway," added one of the cousins, "Plus by using public transport with all the other passengers, we're polluting the air far less than if everyone took their own car."

At the cinema at last, the children watched a fantastic movie. It was about monsters from outer space invading the Earth to take away all our water. Maddie and Luke had to cover their eyes at some points because the monsters were really hideous and frightened them a little, but they knew perfectly well that in the end the stars of the film would win and get the planet's water back. When it finished, Maddie, Luke and their cousins applauded enthusiastically. All of them imagined themselves as the film's heroes, saving the planet. It really was a brilliant film!

On the way back, instead of taking the bus again, Maddie suggested they walked. It wasn't dark yet, and they needed to stretch their legs after being sat in the cinema for two hours. Luke thought it was a great idea, so they could carry on talking about the film and even buy an ice-cream en route. But the most important thing was that by walking back they weren't producing any pollution whatsoever, because they weren't using any form of transport. There were already too many cars in this city constantly pumping out smoke!

## 5. Learning to recycle

When Luke opened the kitchen cupboard and saw there were only three biscuits left in his favourite biscuit tin, he said loudly:

"Mummy, we need to go shopping urgently."

"Don't worry, Luke, I'd already planned to go as we're short of a lot of other things besides your biscuits", said his mum.

So Maddie, Luke and their mother went off to the shops for the afternoon. A little while later, Maddie and Luke arrived at the supermarket with their mother. The two siblings were arguing over who would push the shopping trolley and finally they reached an agreement: they would take turns.

The shopping list was so long it almost reached the floor. They started in the fruit section: they had to buy bananas, apples and oranges. Their mother started picking up trays of pre-packaged fruit, but Maddie and Luke didn't think that was a very good idea because they knew this resulted in a lot of plastic waste that would take years and years to break down.

"Mum, isn't it better to buy the fruit loose? If you buy it direct from the fruit seller, he'll put it all in one bag," suggested Maddie.

"It's true, mum, that way we won't be generating so much plastic packaging, because at school they've told us that making it and then destroying it causes a lot of pollution," added Luke.

"You're absolutely right, children; what would the planet do without you?" And then she put the trays back where she found them and headed over to the fruit seller to buy the fruit.

Back home, Maddie and Luke helped their mother put all the shopping away. Luke took it out of the bags, and Maddie put everything in the right place. When they had finished, Luke had a big pile of plastic bags. What could they do with all these bags? Luke was already thinking about making a plastic fancy dress outfit when his mother came up with the perfect solution:

"We're going to recycle the bags".

"RE - CY - CLE?" asked the children in puzzlement.

"Yes, that means keeping the bags in this drawer and re-using them as rubbish bags."

The children were really enthusiastic about the idea of recycling the bags and asked their mother what other things they could recycle. Their mother pulled a pile of clothes out of Maddie and Luke's wardrobe which were now too small for them. They couldn't even remember wearing some of the clothes. A lot of them were in perfect condition and they could donate them to be used by other more needy children, either by putting them in special containers for clothes, or by donating them to charity shops. Luke then remembered that there was a special container for old clothes near the house.

"Can we leave them there? Can we go right now, mum?" asked Luke.

His mother thought this was a good idea and gave them the clothes, saying:

"OK children, but don't take too long because it's time for your tea shortly".

So Maddie and Luke went off to the special container for second-hand clothes, loaded down with a pile of trousers and T-shirts they couldn't wear any more. A lot of the clothes brought back really good memories, and they were a bit sad to get rid of them. But the idea that someone who really needed them could use them made them very happy. So in a very easy way they were helping lots of people. Once they had dropped all the clothes into the container, they went back home where the biscuits Luke had been craving were waiting for him!



## **6. The countryside is not a tip**

That Sunday, Maddie and Luke were going to spend the day in the country with their parents. Everyone agreed it would be a great idea to go and breathe some fresh country air instead of sitting inside watching television or playing a videogame. While they were eating breakfast, they planned the excursion.

"Dad, can we cook lunch out there in the country?" asked Maddie.

"No darling, you can't build fires in the country because it could start a forest fire. So we'll prepare some sandwiches and crisps and take them with us."

After breakfast, Maddie and Luke helped their parents prepare lunch. Luke helped with the sandwiches and Maddie peeled the potatoes. Soon, everything was ready for their trip to the country.

Finally, all the food was ready. The sandwiches smelled so good that the children had to stop themselves from taking a bite right there and then. Maddie then noticed that her mother was pouring the oil left over from cooking the crisps into a plastic bottle and then throwing the bottle in the bin.

"Why don't you just pour the oil down the sink, mum?" asked Maddie, intrigued.

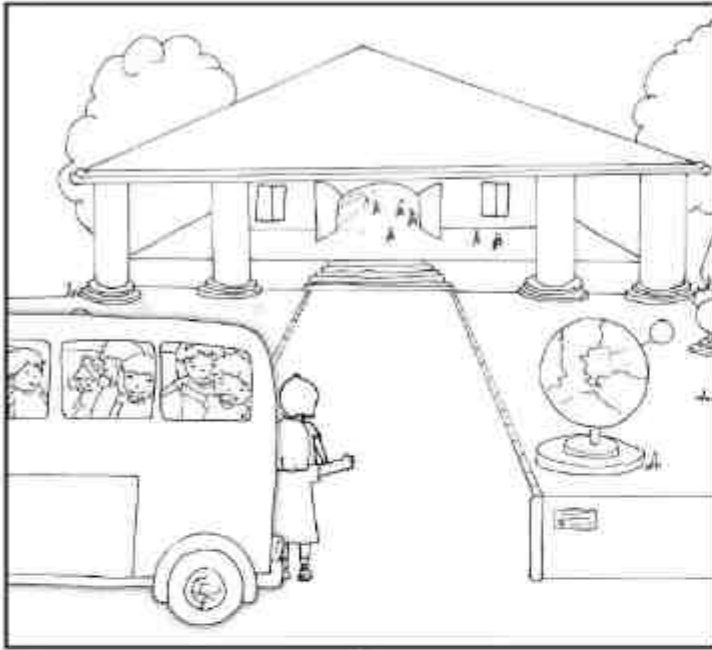
"You should never tip oil down the sink because it's very polluting. In fact, you should never put *any* liquid apart from water down the sink because all of it ends up going back to the sea and destroying the marine ecosystem".

Maddie and Luke mentally added this tip to their own personal list of tips for taking care of the environment.

Out in the country, the family found a very peaceful spot in a woodland clearing surrounded by pine trees. They spread a blanket out on the ground and enjoyed a lovely open-air picnic. Everything was perfect, except that Maddie had to wave off a wasp which was trying to eat her sandwich, until finally it left her in peace. Luke, meanwhile, was trying to attract the birds by offering them bits of bread, though the only thing he was managing to attract were ants.

After lunch, their father stretched out for a nap under a tree and their mother got a fold-up chair out of the car and started reading. Meanwhile, Maddie and Luke played ball and improvised a goal from some stones. Whenever Luke scored, he shouted so loudly it was impossible for his father to sleep. Maddie and Luke had a wonderful day and wondered why it couldn't *always* be a Sunday.

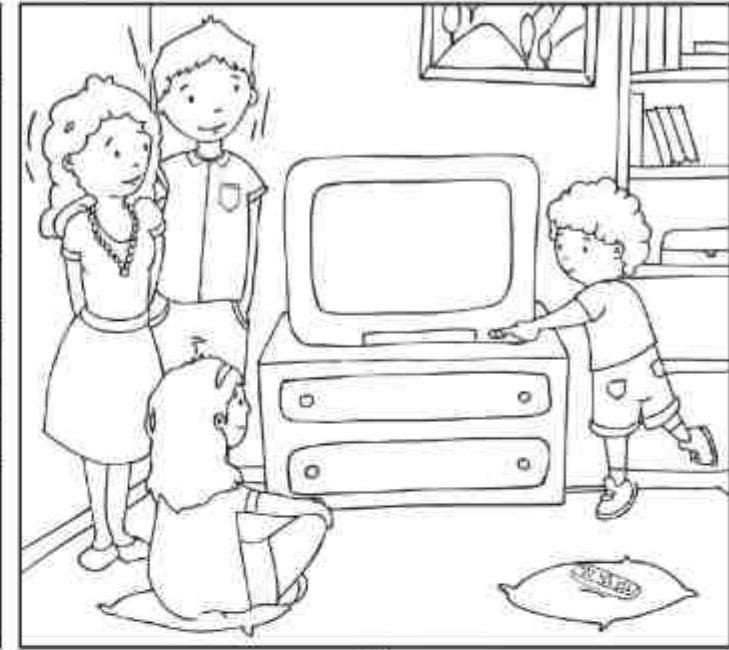
A few hours later, night started falling and it was time to go home. But before getting back in the car, they had to leave everything just as it was when they arrived. On the blanket there were empty plastic bottles, bits of wrapping and packaging, soft drink cans... a whole pile of rubbish, in fact. As someone had put a rubbish bin close to the clearing, they could throw everything in there. If there hadn't been a bin, they would have put everything in a bag and taken it home to put in the bin there. Maddie and Luke knew very well that the countryside is for everyone, and nobody likes finding bits of rubbish when they go to spend a day surrounded by nature.



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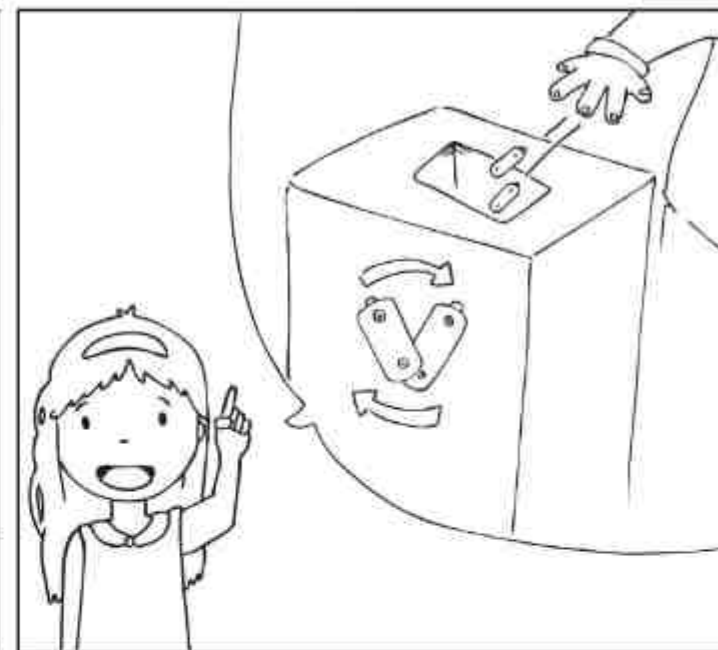
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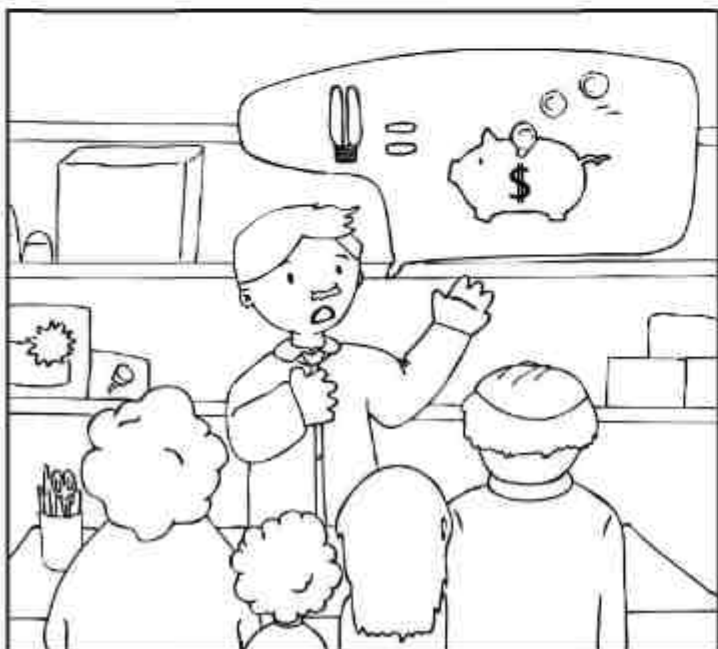
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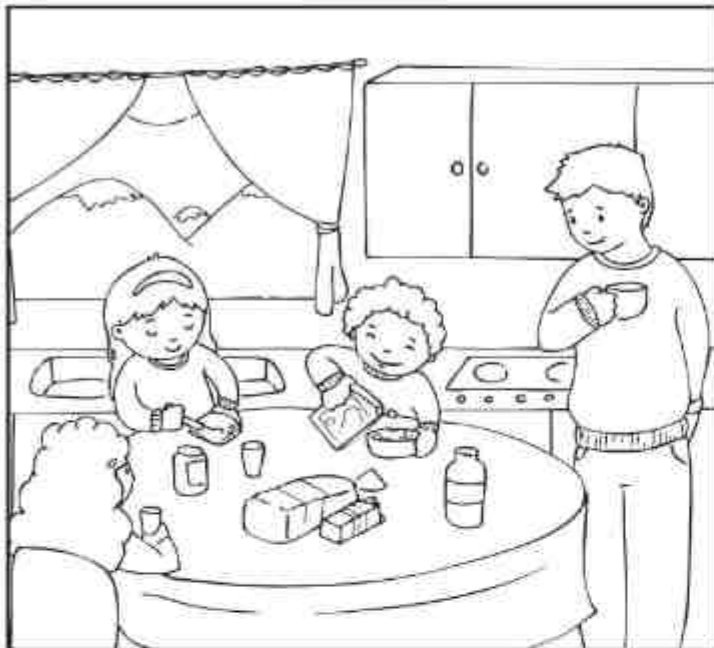
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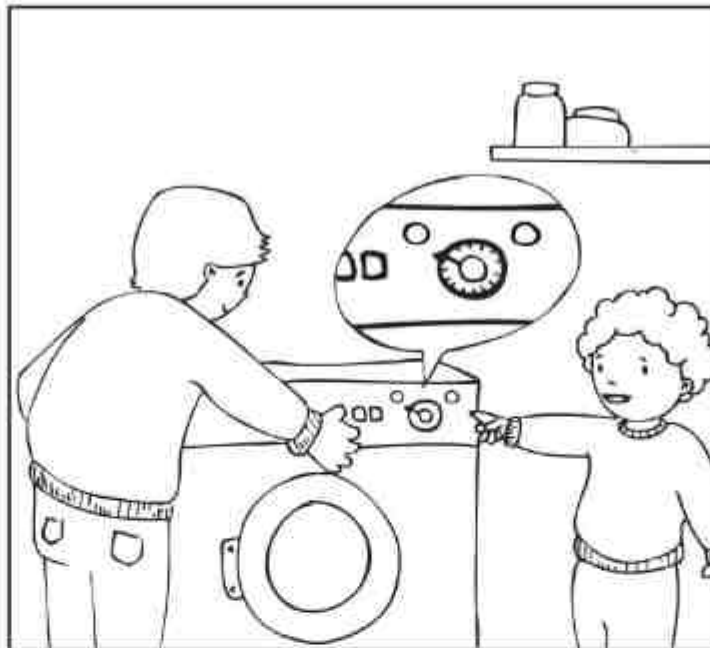
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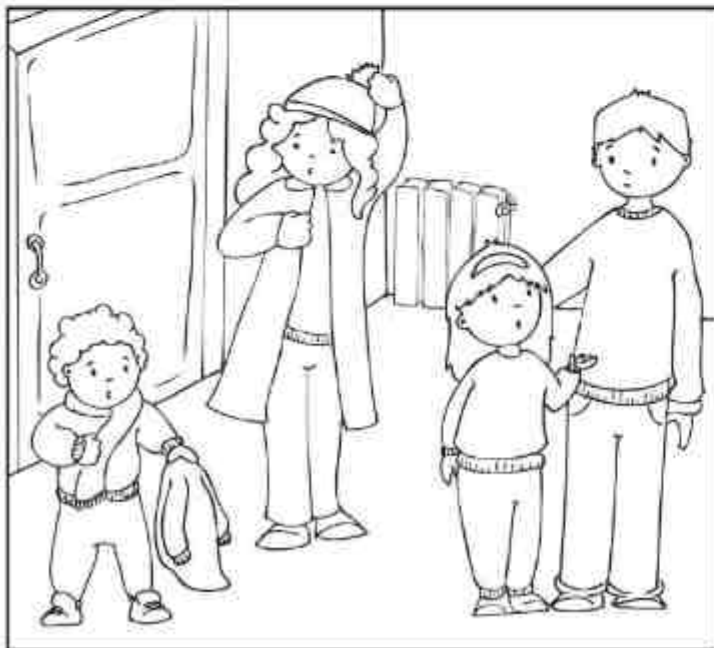
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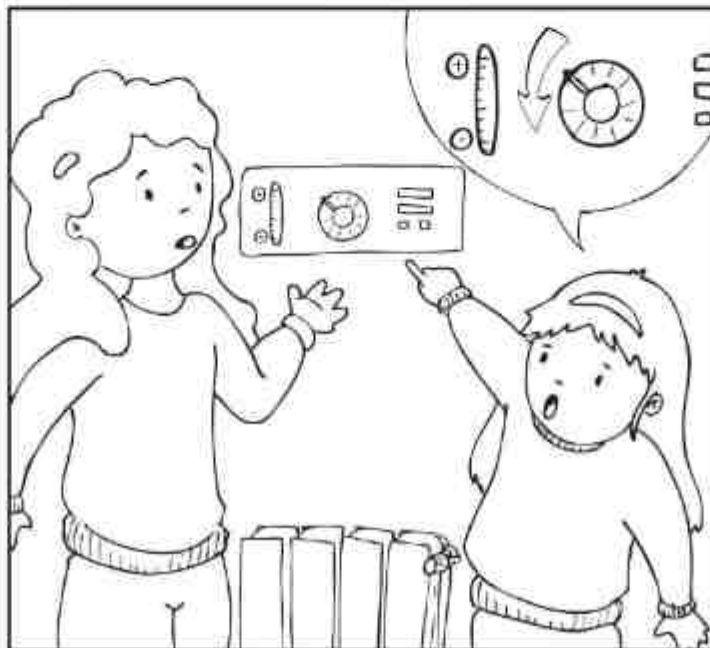
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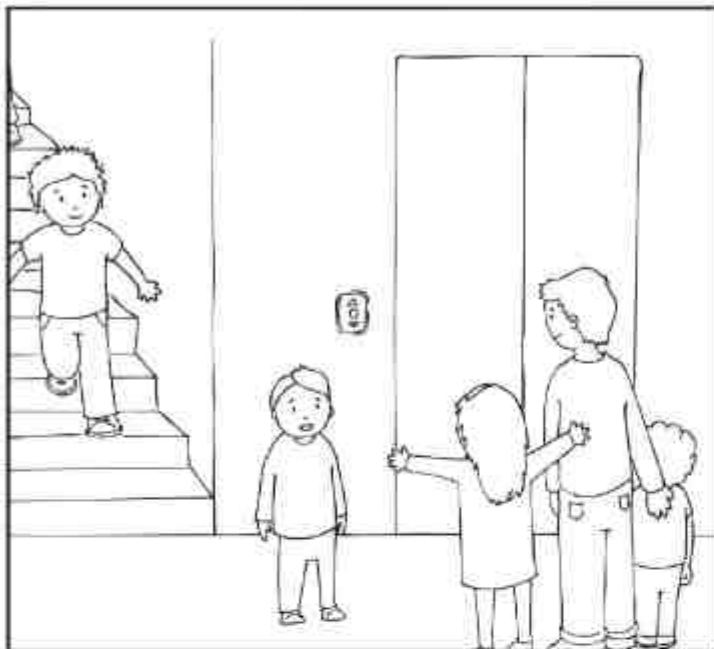
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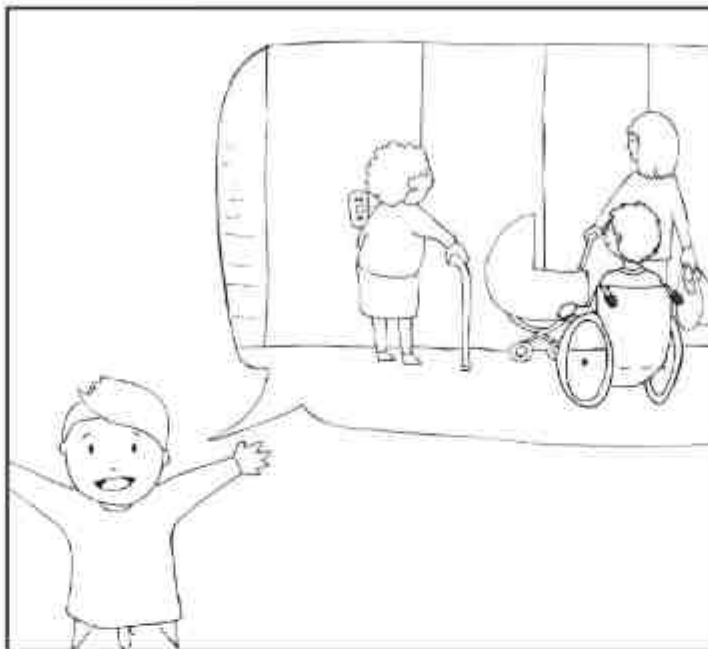
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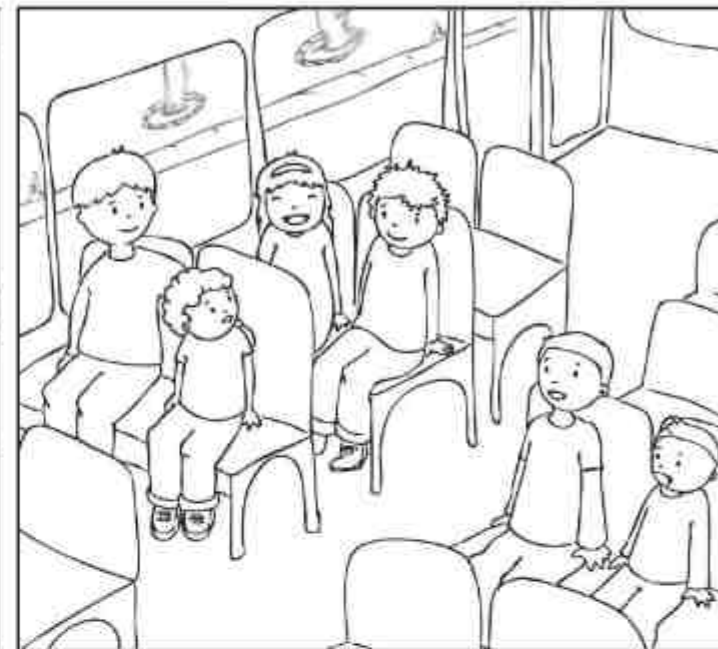
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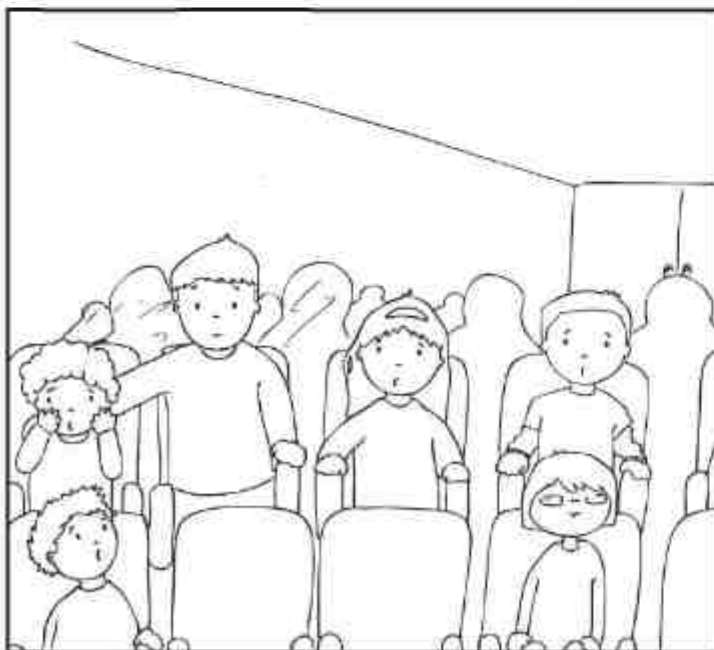
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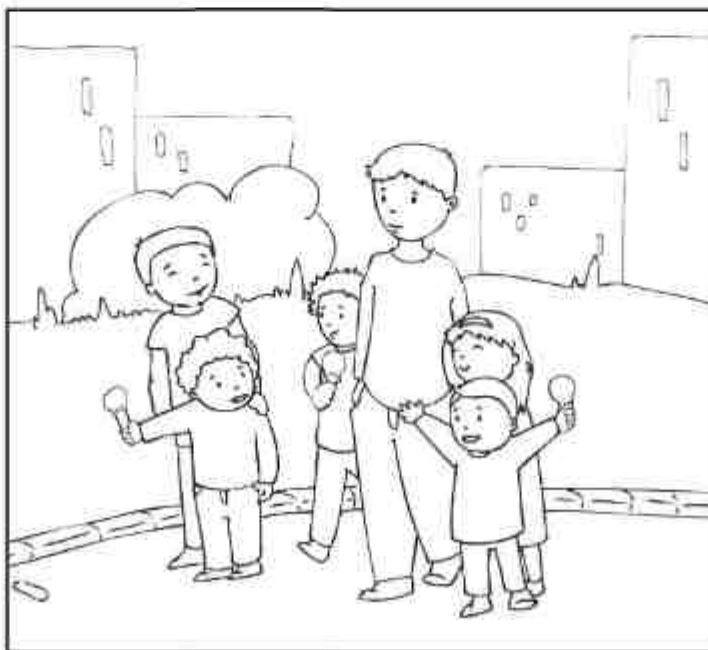
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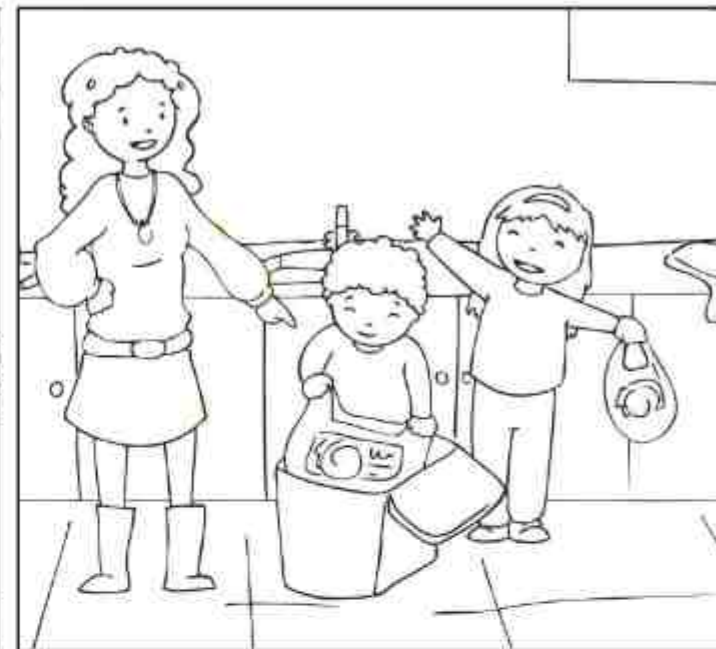
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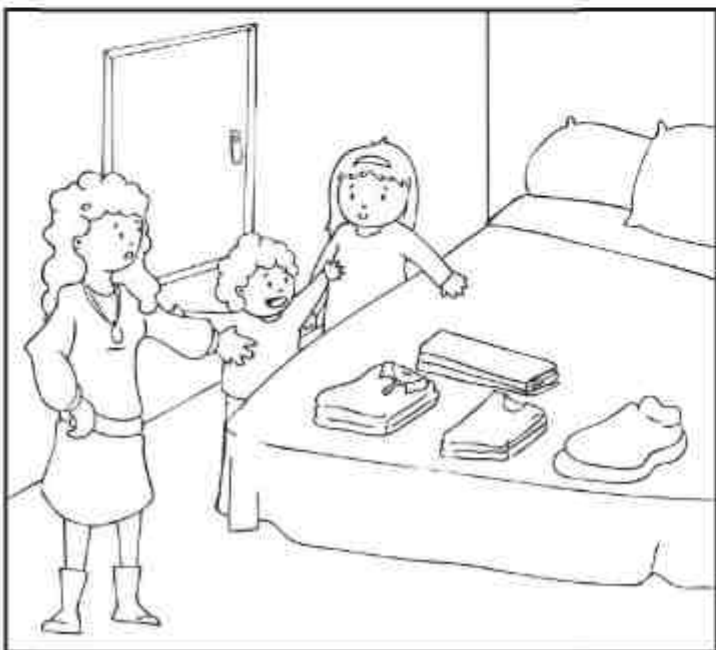
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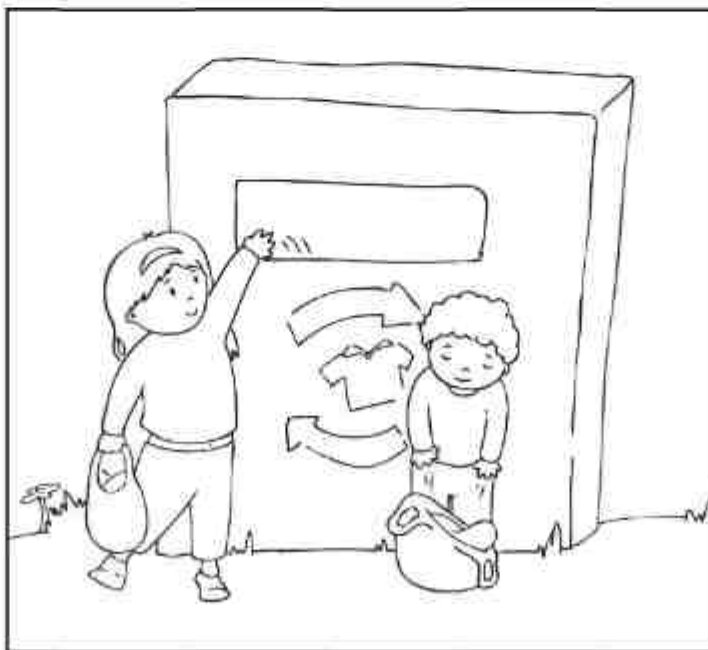
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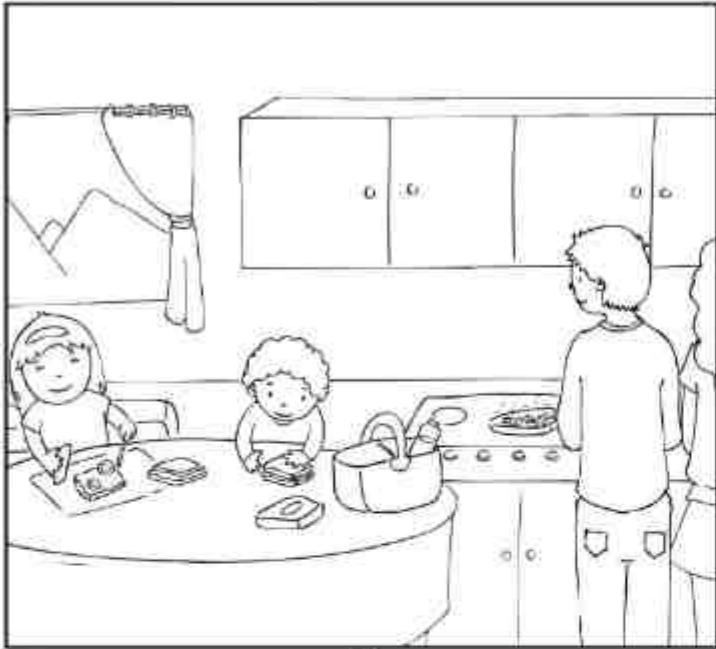
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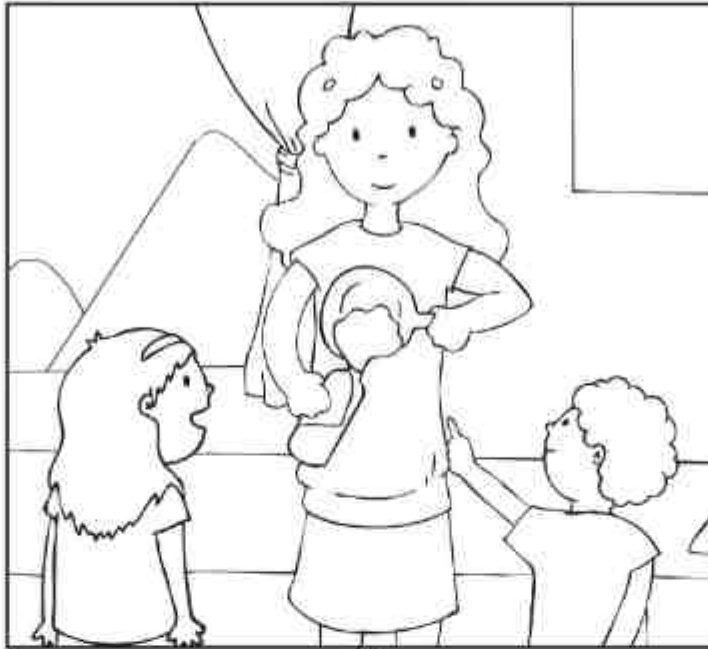
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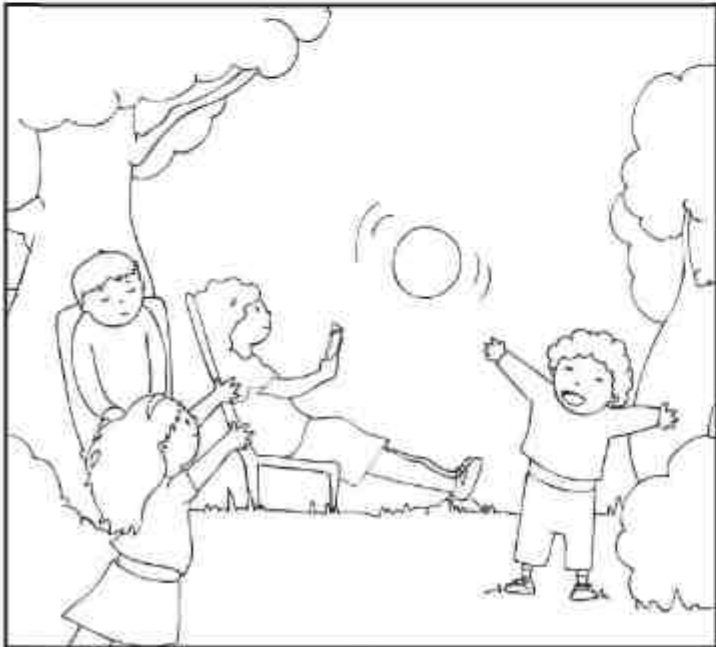
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