



Children's
SOCIETY

Caring for the Future

Eli and Snack Time



About Choo Choo Train

Choo Choo Train is a series of stories and activities aiming to inculcate good values in five and six-year-old children. Children will learn eight values through 16 stories and activities. The stories will feature Eli the elephant and his friends as they learn about each value.

If you are a parent or an educator, there are guided questions at the end of the story that you may ask the children to build their empathy and perspective-taking skills.

Recommended activities are also included for a wholesome experience in learning these values!

About this story

In this story, we will explore the value of compassion. It's snack time! Eli and friends have taken out their snacks. Bob, however, did not bring any snacks. Ray and Felix saw this and offered to share their snacks, but not Eli. Will Eli show compassion in the end? Read on to find out more.





“Ring!!!” The school bell rang. It was snack time!

Eli, Felix and Ray took out their snacks from their bags excitedly.

“I brought bananas today!” Eli showed a bunch of bananas to his friends.

“I have cookies!” Ray said.

“And I have bread and honey!” Felix said.



“Bob, where is your snack?” Felix asked.

“I did not bring any. My mother did not pack snacks for me today,” Bob said softly.

“Too bad, Bob. Then you will have no snack to eat today,” Eli said as he munched on his bananas.



Bob looked sad. "My mother fell and injured her leg. She has not been able to walk for a few days," Bob added.

"Is that why she did not pack snacks for you today?" Felix asked.

Bob nodded and started crying.



“Do you want some of my cookies, Bob?”
Ray asked as he handed a cookie to Bob.

“Why should you share your cookies, Ray?”
Eli asked.

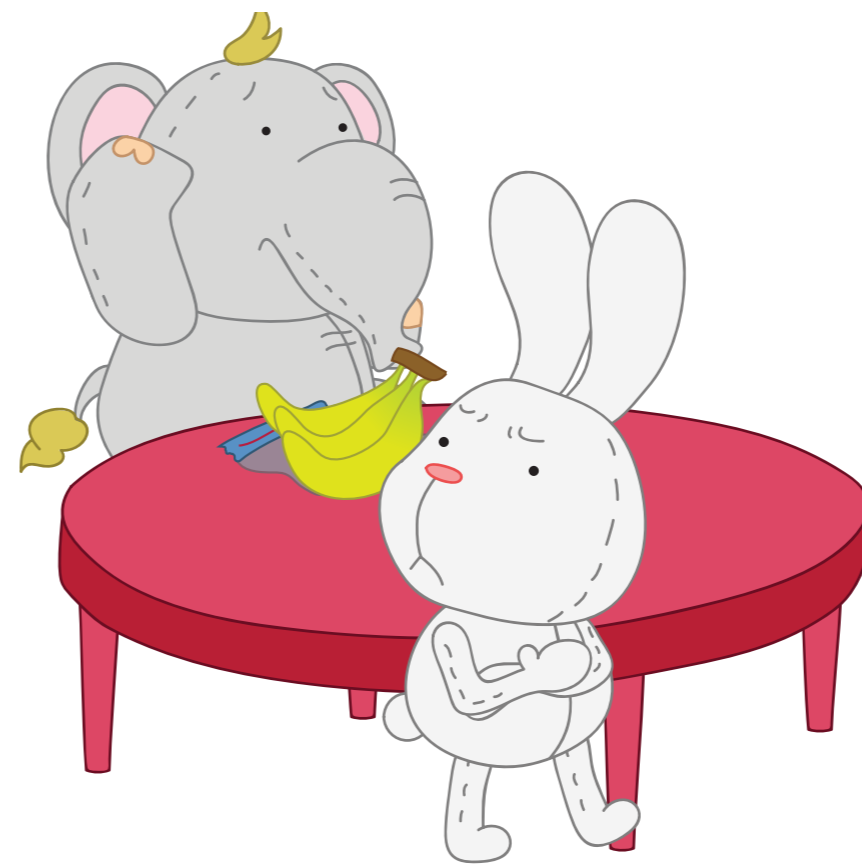
“Eli, Bob does not have any snacks. I want to
share my snacks with him so that he will not
be sad and go hungry,” Ray replied.



“Eli, Bob is also feeling sad because his mother’s leg is injured. She might not be able to pack snacks for Bob for a while,” Felix added.

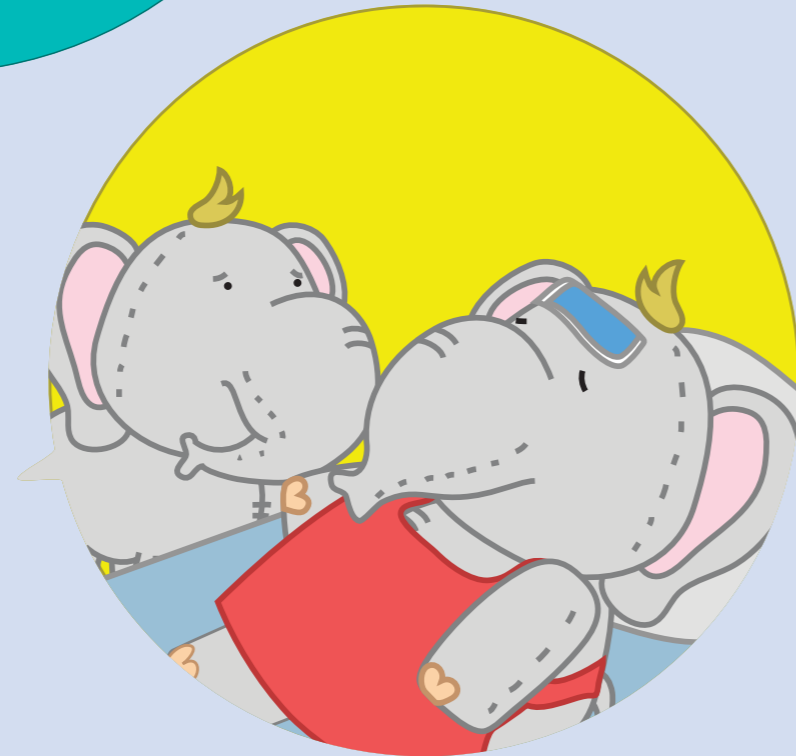
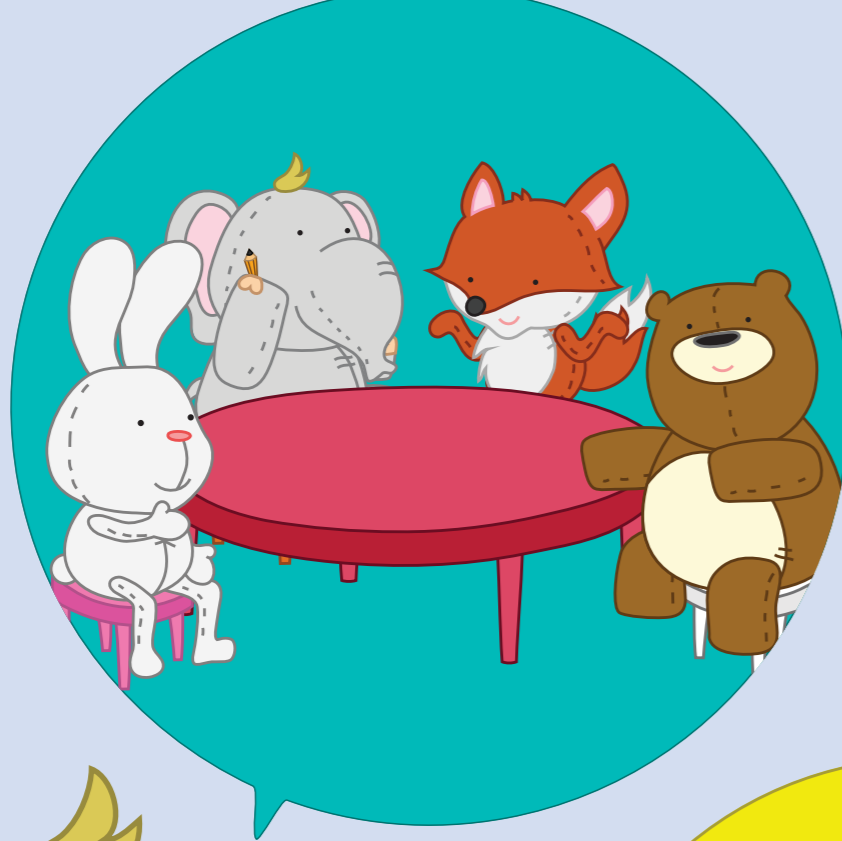
“I don’t care. That is Bob’s problem, not mine,” Eli continued eating his bananas.

Bob felt even more hurt by what Eli said.



“Eli, Bob is feeling sad. We should think about how Bob is feeling and show compassion. We can do this by helping Bob when he needs help, such as sharing our snacks with him,” Ray said.

“Bob, I will share my snacks with you. Let’s sit elsewhere,” Felix said as he walked to another table with Ray and Bob, leaving Eli to sit alone.



“Compassion? Think about how Bob is feeling and helping him when he needs help?” Eli scratched his head.

Eli thought about the time when his mother was sick. He felt sad seeing his mother being sick. She was also unable to help him with his art homework but he managed to complete it with the help from his friends.

“Bob must be sad that his mother’s leg is injured. Ray is right. I should help Bob when he needs help too,” Eli thought to himself.



Eli took his bananas and walked over to Bob.

“I am sorry for not thinking about how you feel, Bob. I should have also helped you when you needed help,” Eli said.

“Here, have some of my bananas,” Eli handed his bananas to Bob.



“Thank you, Eli,” Bob said with a smile.

“I know! Why don’t we all make a card for Bob’s mother together?” Ray asked.

“Good idea! That will make her happy!” Felix and Eli replied.

Eli and his friends made a card for Bob’s mother together after having their snacks.

Eli was glad that he had learnt about compassion that day.



Ask and Discuss

Here are some questions to further the discussion with your child. The suggested responses serve as a guide.

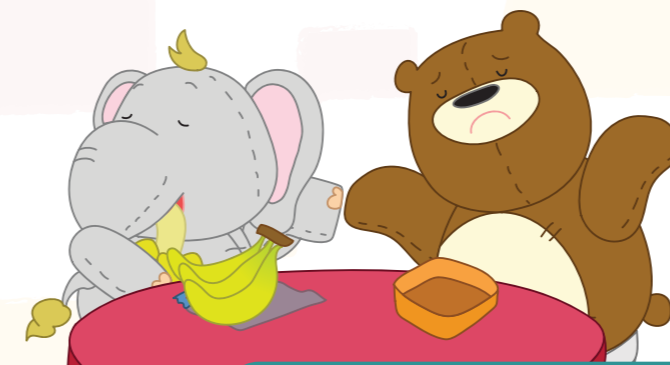


What value does this story teach?

This story teaches about Compassion. Compassion is thinking about how others are feeling and helping them.

What happened in the story?

Bob did not have any food to eat during snack time because his mother was injured and was unable to prepare or pack snacks for him for a few days. He felt sad that he might not have snacks for a few days. Seeing that Bob was sad and without any snacks, Ray and Felix shared their snacks with Bob. However, Eli did not want to.



When was Eli not showing compassion? Why do you think Eli did not show compassion?

When Bob did not have any snacks to eat and Eli said he did not care. Furthermore, Eli did not want to share his snacks with Bob. Eli did not show compassion because he did not think about how Bob would feel when he had no snack.

How would you feel if you were Bob and you do not have any food to eat during snack time?

I would feel sad and hungry. *(Parents/educators can ask children why they would feel this way and what they would do when they feel this way to encourage children to think about their responses to such feelings.)*

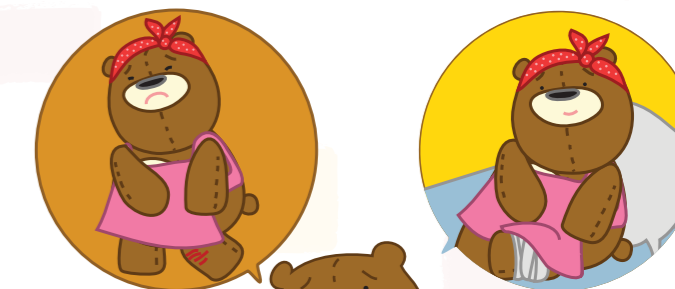


Why should Eli show compassion?

Eli should show compassion so that Bob would have snacks to eat and would not go hungry.

What would happen if Eli continued to not show compassion?

Bob would be sad and hungry as he may not have any snacks over the next few days. Bob may also feel hurt by Eli's words and his decision of not sharing his snacks.



Activity: I Can Help!

In this activity, children will match actions of showing compassion to the respective scenarios.

1. Let your child know that you will be playing a matching game. Explain that he/she will need to match a scenario card to the correct response card to show compassion.
2. Parent/educator/caregiver to print the picture cards on the next page and cut them out individually.
3. Mix the order of cards in their respective decks.
4. Flip the picture cards to face downwards in two rows. Get your child to select a card from each row.
5. When there is a correct match between the scenario card and the response card, discuss with the child how the character may be feeling. If there is an incorrect match, flip the cards over and repeat till there is a correct match.

Scenarios



Bob does not have any snacks.



Felix's toy is broken.



Ray is feeling sick.

Ways to show compassion



Ray and Felix share their snacks with Bob.



Bob shares his toy with Felix.



Bob gives Ray water.



ABOUT SINGAPORE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Singapore Children's Society has been helping disadvantaged children, youth and their families in Singapore since 1952. We are an independent and non-profit organisation that relies predominantly on public support for many of our programmes and public education initiatives such as Choo Choo Train.

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