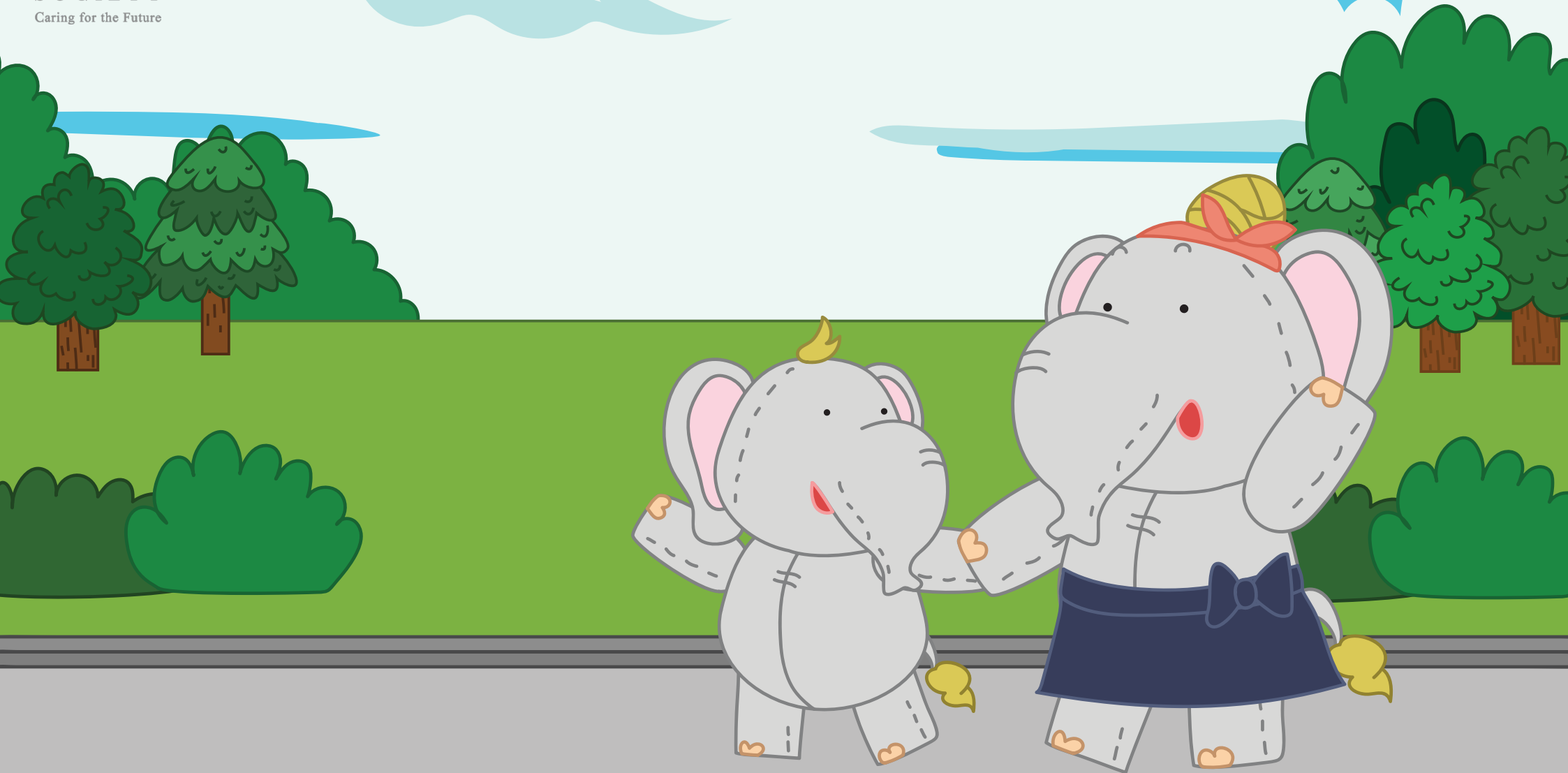


Eli's Journey to School



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 courtesy. Eli and his mother were on their way to school when Eli interrupted his mother. At school, Eli continues to interrupt his friends. Will Eli show courtesy? Read on to find out more.



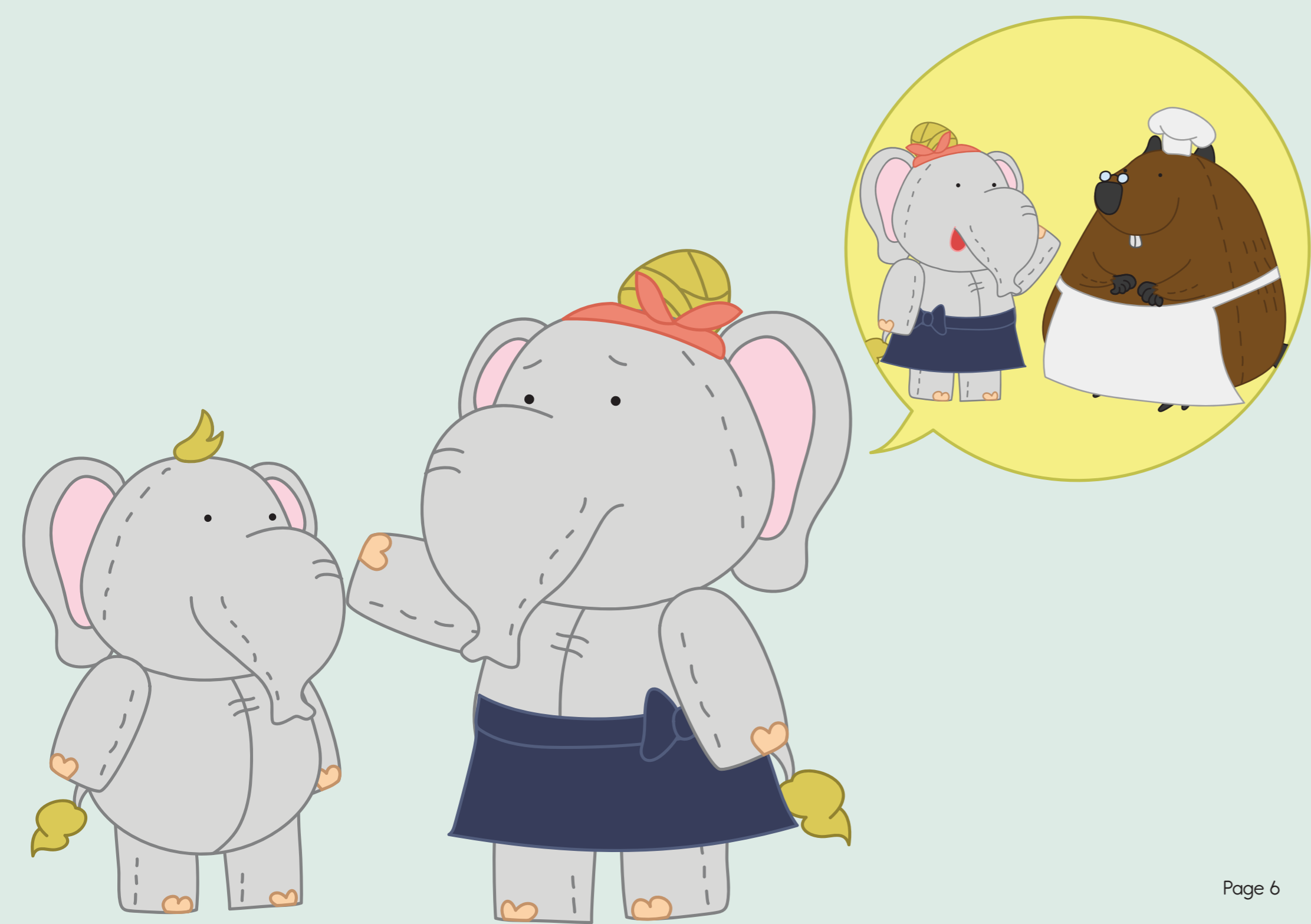


It was a bright and sunny day. Eli was on his way to school with his mother when they pass by Mr Brad, the baker, at the bakery.

“Oh, hello, Mr Brad!” Eli’s mother waved.

“How are you?” Mr Brad asked Eli’s mother.

“I’m...,” Eli’s mother was about to reply when Eli tugged at his mother’s hand and yelled, “Hurry Mama, let’s go.”



“I’m fine...” Eli’s mother’s voice trailed off as Eli pulled her away.

“Eli, you were not showing courtesy when you interrupted me while I was talking to Mr Brad,” Eli’s mother frowned at Eli.

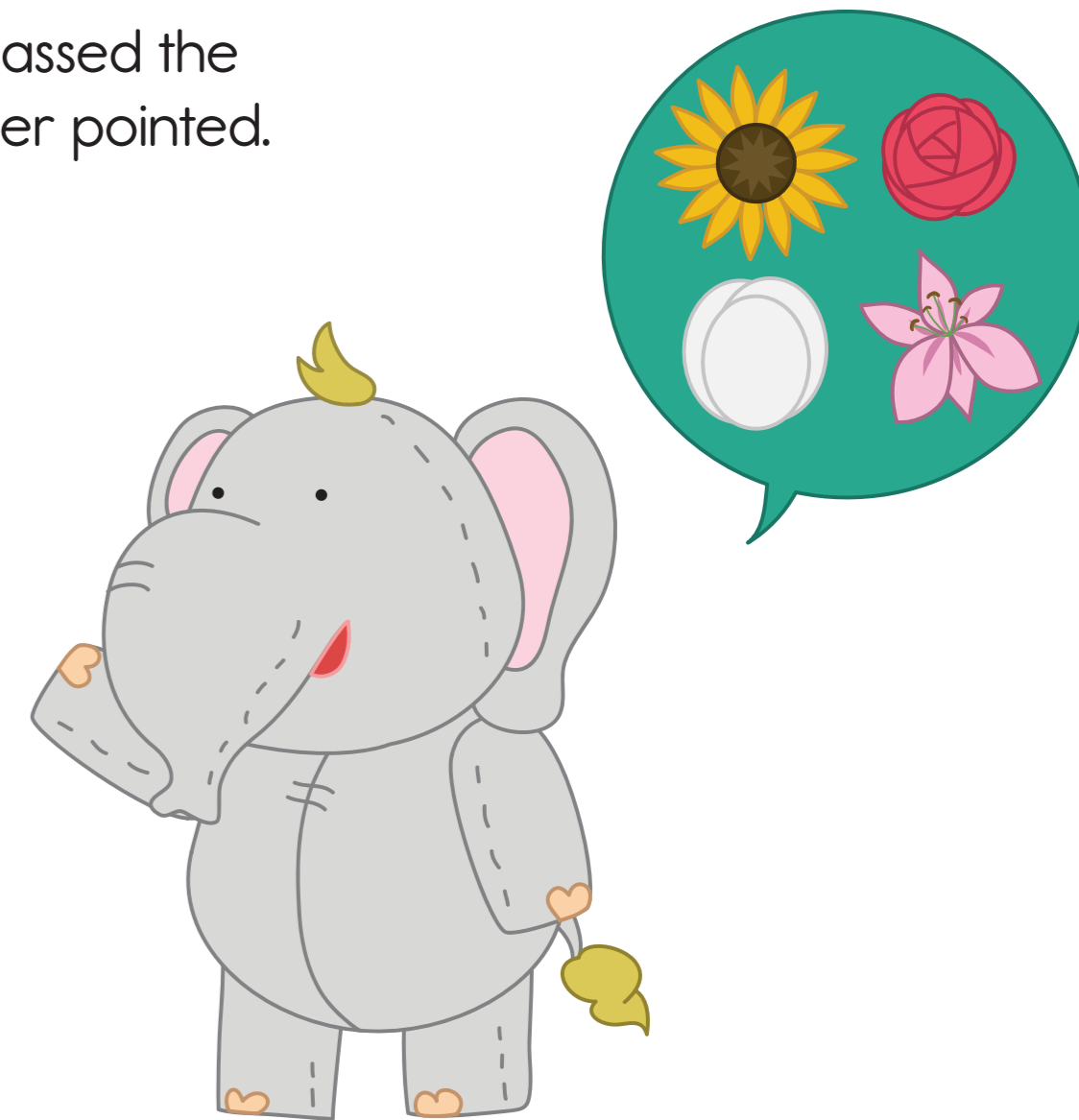


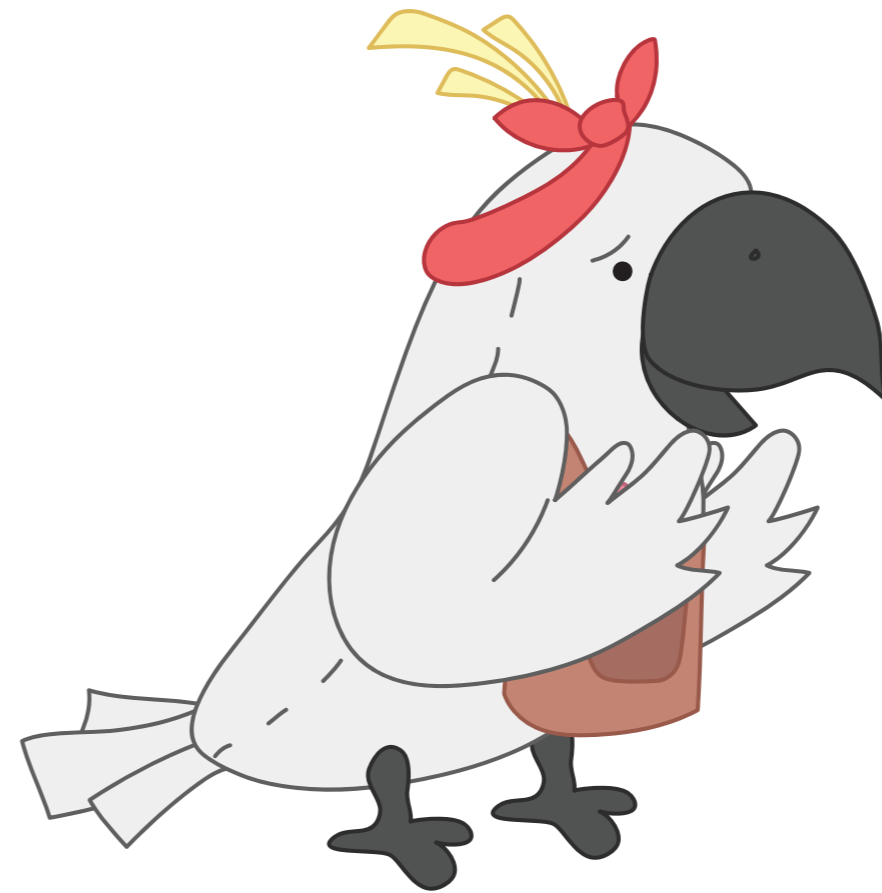
As they continued walking, they passed the florist. "That's Ms Peony!" Eli's mother pointed.

"What flowers do you have today, Ms Peony?" Eli's mother asked.

"Oh, we have..." and before Ms Peony could complete her sentence, Eli interrupted her.

"I know. I know. You have roses, tulips, sunflowers... and lilies!" Eli answered very quickly.





“Eli, courtesy is not interrupting others when they are talking,” Ms Peony said with a frown.

“Let’s go,” Eli pulled his mother’s hand as they continued their walk to the school.



At school, Eli saw his friends. “Bob! Felix! Guess who I’ve met just now? I saw Mr Brad and Ms Peony!” Eli said excitedly, interrupting Bob and Felix who were talking.

Bob frowned at Eli, “Eli! Felix and I were...”

“Talking? Listen to me! I saw Mr Brad and Ms Peony on my way to school!” Eli continued.

“Eli, can you please let...” Felix tried to stop Eli but he got interrupted again.



“Oh! Shall we play catching after school today?” Eli asked happily, without letting Felix finish his sentence.

“Eli! Let us finish what we want to say! Courtesy is not interrupting when someone is talking,” Bob said to Eli.

“Courtesy? How do I show courtesy?” Eli asked.

“You can show courtesy by waiting for your turn to talk. Wait for us to finish talking before you talk,” Bob said.



“Yes, in this way, we can finish what we want to say and also hear what you have to say as well,” Felix added on.

“I know now! Thank you for waiting for me to finish talking before you talk to me. Now... whose turn is it next to say something?” Eli asked.

“Me! I was just telling Felix that we should head off to class together soon as school is starting soon,” Bob said.

The three friends nodded in agreement and they ran off to class together.

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

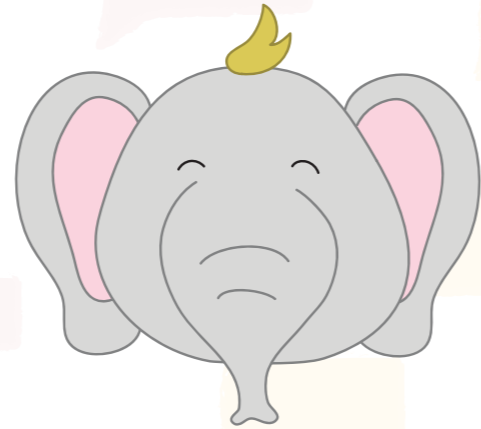


Ask and Discuss

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

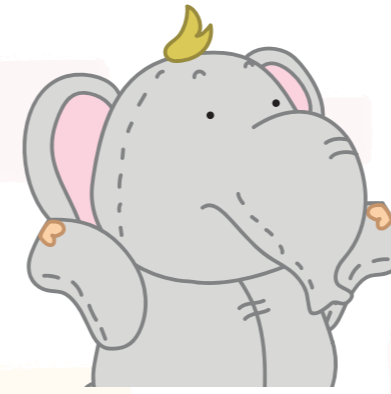
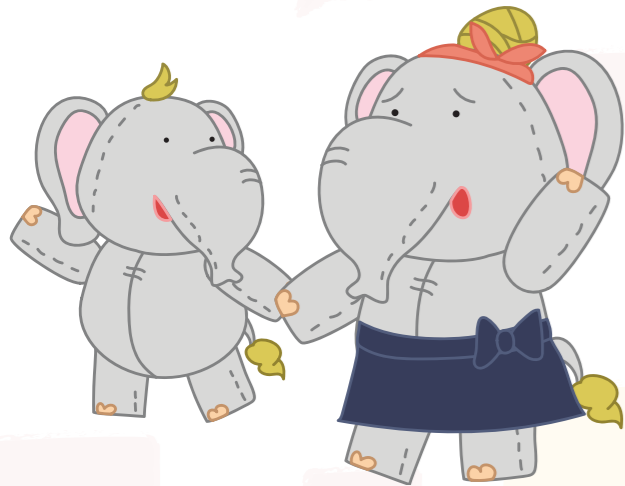
What value does this story teach?

This story teaches about courtesy. Courtesy is showing good manners to the people around us.



What happened in the story?

Eli and his mother met Mr Brad and Ms Peony on the way to school. Eli's mother was talking to them but Eli interrupted his mother and she did not manage to finish talking to them. When Eli reached school, Felix and Bob were talking but Eli did not let them finish talking as well. Eli's mother, Bob and Felix were upset that Eli did not wait for them to finish talking.

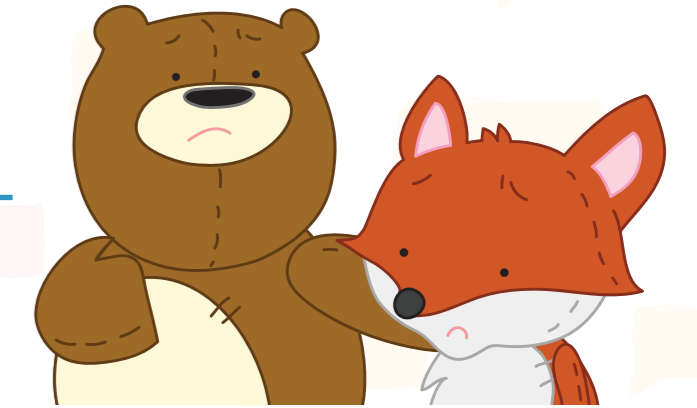


When did Eli not show courtesy? Why do you think Eli did not show courtesy?

When Eli interrupted his mother, and when Felix and Bob were talking. Eli did not show courtesy as he might be eager to talk to his mother and friends and did not want to wait.

How would you feel if you were Eli's mother, Felix or Bob and Eli interrupted you?

I would feel frustrated/upset. *(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.)*



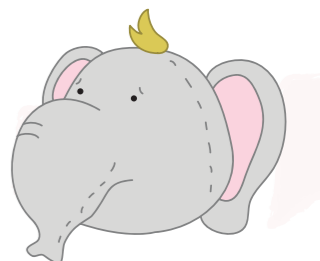
Why should Eli show courtesy?

Eli should show courtesy so that others can finish what they want to say. By taking turns to speak, everyone can hear what others have to say as well.



What would happen if Eli continued to not show courtesy?

Eli would have no one to talk to as his mother and friends would be upset with him as he would not have learnt to not interrupt others while they are talking.



Activity: What can we do or say?

In this activity, get your child to role-play in the following scenarios on what they can do or say when they want to show courtesy to others.



What should Eli do when he wants to talk to his mother who is talking to others?

- Eli can wait for his mother to finish talking.
- Eli can raise his hand to catch his mother's attention.
- Eli can gently tap on his mother's hand.
- Eli can smile and say, "Excuse me, Mama, may I tell you something please?"



What should Eli do when Bob wants to talk to him when he is busy?

- Eli smiles and says, "Please wait for a while."
- Eli smiles and says, "I am busy now, can I talk to you later?"
- Eli smiles and says, "Can you let me finish first?"
- Eli smiles and raises his hand to ask Bob to wait.

Role-play to practise

Adult to pretend talking on the phone and child wants to talk to adult at the same time.

Ask child what they should do and invite child to act it out together.

Child to pretend being busy playing and adult wants to talk to child.

Ask child what they should do and get child to act it out together.



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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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