A Tiny Visitor

DAY 01

Leo and Mina look at the garden. Leo sees a red dot on a leaf. "Look at that!" he says. Then the little dot moves.





"What bug do you see in the garden?" asks Mina. Leo says, "I see a ladybug on a leaf." They look closely without touching it. It has little black spots.

The ladybug walks to the edge of the leaf. They watch its tiny legs. One, two, three, four, five, six! "Six legs!" says Leo.





The ladybug walks onto Leo's shoe. Leo stays very still. "My shoe is a bus!" he says. Mina points to his little passenger.

A House of Shapes

DAY 02

Mina and Ben build a house with paper shapes. A square makes the wall, and a triangle makes the roof.





Ben adds two round windows. "What shape is the window?" asks Mina. Ben says, "It is a circle, like a wheel." Mina adds a small square below them. "Here is the door!"

Ben brings a tall paper bear. The bear cannot fit through the little door. "We need a taller door!"





Mina cuts a big rectangle and replaces the door. Now the bear fits. "Welcome home!" the children say.

Ben Is Ready

DAY 03

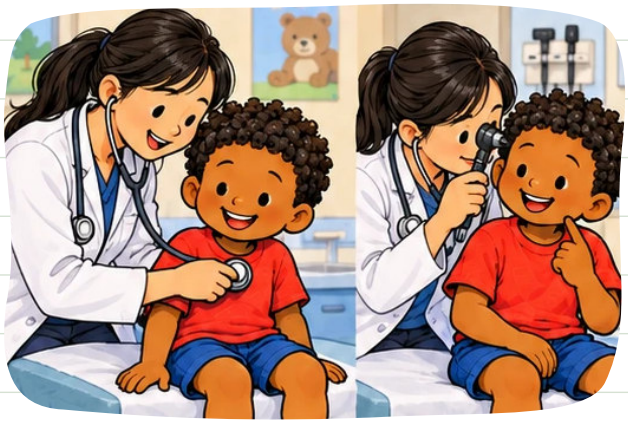
Ben has a checkup today. He sits beside Dad in the waiting room. "How do you feel about your checkup?" asks Dad. Ben says, "I feel nervous about the checkup."





Dad holds his hand. The doctor smiles and explains what will happen next.

First, the doctor listens to Ben's heart. Then she looks in his ears. Ben asks about the little light.





The checkup is over. Ben feels calm now. At home, he shows Mina how to check his teddy bear.

A Road to the Castle

DAY 04

Ben makes a sandcastle. Mina brings a little toy car. She wants to drive it to the castle. But there is no road.





"What can you make with sand?" asks Ben. Mina says, "I can make a road for a toy car." Mina draws a line in the sand. Ben brings a small spade.

They make the road wide and flat. Mina puts her car on it. The car rolls all the way to the castle. "Beep, beep!"





Ben puts his foot across the road. "Oh no! A giant!" says Mina. She honks again. "Move your big foot, please!"

A Clear Path

DAY 05



Mina and Ben visit a beach with a guide. They see tiny sea turtles coming out of a nest in the sand.



One tiny turtle moves slowly toward the water. "Where is the little turtle going?" asks Mina. Ben says, "It is going to the sea for the first time." They watch quietly from a distance.



The children stay back and leave the path clear. They do not touch the turtles or shine lights at them.



A small wave reaches the turtle. It begins to swim. Ben whispers, "Goodbye, little turtle. Have a safe trip!"

The Rainbow Train

DAY 06

Mina connects four colored boxes with string to make a toy train. Ben gathers small toys for the passengers.





"What color is this train car?" asks Mina. Ben says, "It is blue, like the sky." Ben puts a blue toy fish in that car.

They match each toy to a car. Then Ben picks up his rainbow bear. It has red, blue, green, and yellow patches.





Mina adds a little box at the front. The rainbow bear becomes the driver. Now every color has a place on the train.

The Quiet Wait

DAY 07



Mina and Ben sit with Mom at a restaurant. They look at the menu.



"Can I take your order for lunch?" asks the server. Ben says, "I'll have some soup with bread, please." Mina chooses pasta. They say thank you to the server.



The food takes time to cook. Ben starts tapping the table. Mom offers paper, and the children draw their meals.



Soon the real food arrives. Ben compares his picture with his bowl. "My picture has much bigger carrots!" he says.

One for Everyone

DAY 08

Mina brings a basket to the picnic. She takes out an apple. "What do you have in your hand?" asks Ben. Mina says, "I have an apple in my hand."





Ben, Lily and Leo each want one. Mina wants one too. Do they have enough apples? They put the apples on the cloth.

Mina counts the apples. One, two, three, four! She gives one to each friend. There is one for her too.





Crunch, crunch! Ben eats his apple quickly. Soon, only the core is left. He holds it up. "Now I have a very small apple!"

A Dance for Two

DAY 09

Mina puts on some music. "Can you do this?" she asks Ben. She claps twice and turns around slowly.





"Can you show me a dance move?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I can clap to the music." Ben claps, turns, and adds a little jump. Mina tries it too.

They dance for Dad, but Mina forgets the ending. Ben waves both hands above his head. Mina laughs and copies him.





The music stops, and they freeze like statues. Dad claps. "A new ending!" says Mina. "Let's keep that one."

A Place for Leo

DAY 10

Mina and Ben build a bridge at school. They make two sides with blocks. But there is a gap at the top. They need one more long block.





Leo stands nearby with a long block. He looks at the bridge. "Can I join you for a little while?" asks Leo. Mina says, "Yes! We can build a bridge together." Mina moves over to make room for him.

Leo puts his block across the gap. The bridge is ready. Ben picks up the toy bus. "Here comes the bus!"





Ben tries to drive the bus under the bridge. Bump! The bus is too tall. Leo looks at Mina. "We need a bigger bridge!"

The Wobbly Tower

DAY 11

Mina wants to make a little tower. She puts one stone on another. Leo finds a round stone for the top. The tower starts to wobble.





The round stone rolls off. Leo picks up a flat stone instead. "How does this stone feel?" asks Mina. Leo says, "It feels smooth under my fingers."

Mina puts the flat stone on top. This time, it stays in place. They take their hands away. The little tower stands!





A tiny ant climbs up the stones. It reaches the very top. Leo bends down to look. "A mountain for an ant!"

The Backyard Tent

DAY 12

Dad puts up a tent in the yard. Mina and Ben want to sleep there. "What shall we pack for camping?" asks Mina. Ben says, "Let's pack a blanket to keep us warm."





They pack blankets, pillows, and a favorite book. Ben brings his bear too. The tent feels like a tiny house.

Soon it gets dark. Mina opens the book, but she cannot see the words. "We forgot something!" Ben says.





Dad brings a flashlight and joins them. They read together under the soft light. The camping trip can begin!

The Quiet Cat

DAY 13

Mina and Ben open a book about jaguars. On the first page, a little cub sleeps beside its mother.





They turn to the next page. "Is the cub sleeping beside its mother?" asks Mina. Ben says, "No, it's walking through the leaves." The little cub is hard to see among the leaves.

Ben cannot find the cub in the last picture. He looks carefully at the leaves. Two round ears give it away!





"There it is!" says Ben. They draw spotted cats on leafy paper. Now Dad has two hidden cats to find.

Our Little Museum

DAY 14



Mina and Ben visit a museum with Dad. They stop in front of a painting full of bright colors and curvy lines.



"What do you notice in the painting?" asks Dad. Ben says, "I notice the lines across the picture." Ben follows one long line with his eyes. Mina points to the bright colors without touching the painting.



At home, they make pictures with lines and shapes. They hang the pictures low enough for everyone to see.



Dad visits their little museum. Ben asks, "What do you notice?" Dad points to a tiny smiling face hidden in the lines.

Ready to Help

DAY 15

Mina and Leo visit a fire station. A firefighter shows them the red truck. They see a helmet, a hose and big boots. Everything has a place.





Mina looks at the firefighters. "Why do firefighters use this equipment?" asks Mina. Leo says, "They wear boots to protect their feet." Leo points to a very big pair of boots.

The firefighter brings Leo a spare boot. "You can try this one." Leo slips his foot inside. It is much bigger than his shoe.





Leo takes one little step. His foot comes out. The big boot stays behind. "Come on, boot!" says Leo.

The Story Basket

DAY 16

Rain keeps Mina and Ben inside today. Ben brings a basket of books. "Which book shall we read?" he asks.





Mina picks a book about animals. Ben wants a funny story. They both reach for their favorite book at once.

"Let's take turns," says Mina. Ben nods. "Which book shall we read together?" asks Ben. Mina says, "Let's read the animal book first." Ben makes the animal sounds while Mina turns the pages.





Then they read Ben's funny book. Soon they are both laughing. There is still room for one more book in their day.

Two Happy Halves

DAY 17

Mina and Ben make one big pizza. They spread sauce on the dough. There are bowls of toppings on the table. Now they need to choose.





"What do you want on your pizza?" asks Mina. Ben says, "I want tomato on my pizza." Mina points to the corn. "I want corn on my pizza."

They have an idea. Corn goes on one half. Tomato goes on the other half. An adult puts the pizza in the oven.





Soon, the pizza is ready. Mina and Ben point to the same big slice. "I want that one!" they say together. The adult cuts the slice in half. Now they can both have some!

Who Says Quack?

DAY 18

Mina and Lily visit the birds. They hear a loud sound. Quack, quack! "Who is making that sound?" asks Lily.





"Can you name the bird over there?" asks Mina. Lily says, "It's a parrot on a branch." Lily points up at a branch. The green parrot tilts its head.

They hear the sound again. This time, they look at the pond. A duck swims past them. "There you are!" says Mina.





"Quack!" says the duck. "Quack!" says the parrot too. Lily looks up at the branch. "You are not a duck!"

The Funny Cookie

DAY 19

Lily and Mina make cookies. They press cutters into the soft dough. Lily makes a star. Mina makes a big round cookie.





"Which cookie will you choose to decorate?" asks Lily. Mina says, "I'll choose the big round cookie." Mina looks at her cookie. "It needs something else."

She makes two little circles. She adds them to the top. Now the cookie has ears. "Look! A bear!" says Lily.





Lily makes one more tiny cookie. She puts it beside the bear. "A snack for your bear!" Mina nods. "Bears like cookies too."

A Gift We Made

DAY 20

Mina and Ben want to make a gift. They fold bright paper into a star and tie a ribbon at the top.





"Who is your gift for?" asks Dad. Ben says, "It is for Grandma, who reads with us." Ben holds up the paper star for Dad to see.

Mina writes a thank-you note. Ben draws Grandma reading on the back. They put both things in a small box.





Grandma opens the gift and smiles. She hangs the star by her window. "Now my window has a little sunshine," she says.