

Trinka and Sam Fighting the Big Virus:

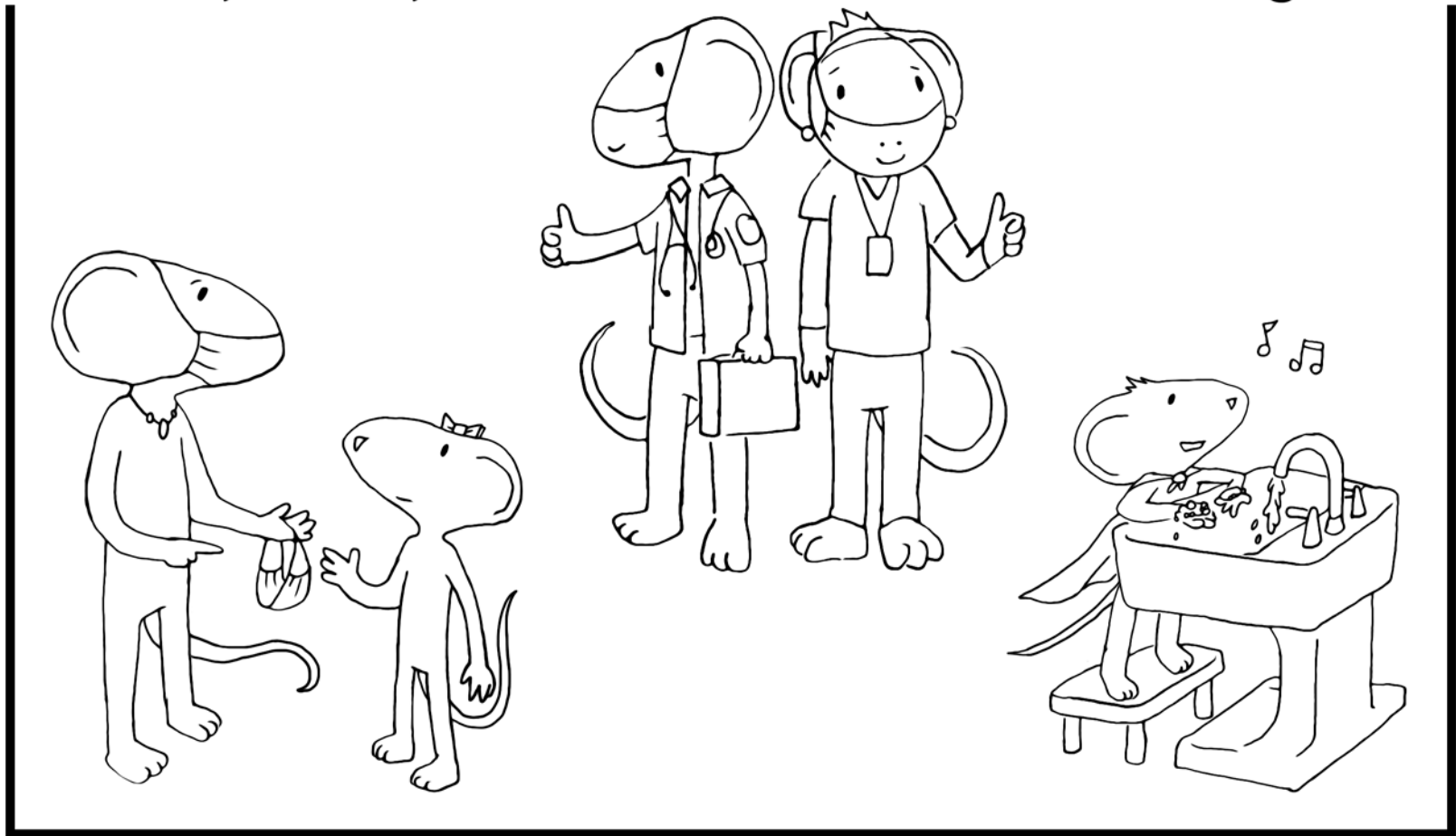
Trinka, Sam, and Littletown Work Together



Trinka and Sam

Fighting the Big Virus:

Trinka, Sam, and Littletown Work Together



Fighting the Big Virus: Trinka, Sam, and Littletown Work Together

by Chandra Michiko Ghosh Ippen
and Melissa Brymer

Illustrated by Erich Ippen, Jr.

Note: This story was designed to be used either on its own or jointly with the companion booklet, *Fighting the Virus: Trinka and Sam's Questions*

The story and companion booklet were developed to help young children and their families begin to talk about their experiences and feelings related to the global coronavirus pandemic.

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Please feel free to link to this resource and share it from either <https://piploproductions.com> or <https://nctsn.org>.



More information about the story, the use of the story, and the team who created the story can be found at: <https://piploproductions.com>. The website also has other stories and resources to help children and families heal after stressful or traumatic experiences.

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The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

More information about how to help children and families who have experienced stressful or traumatic events can be found at www.nctsn.org.

Acknowledgements: Special thanks to Mindy Kronenberg, Ann Chu, and Brooke Kimbro for their input and feedback.



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For the children of the world and all the frontline workers. You are in our hearts!

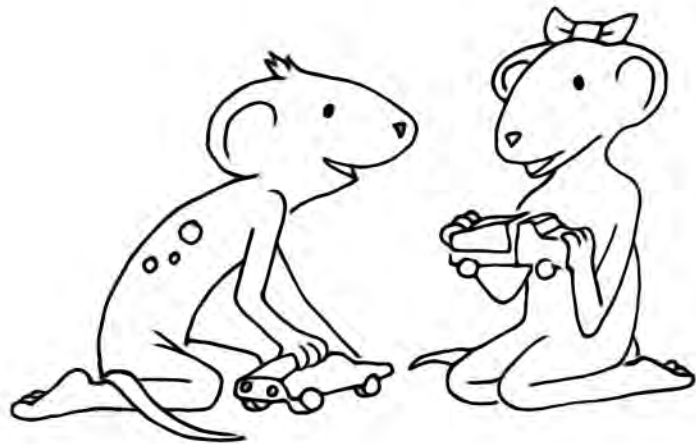
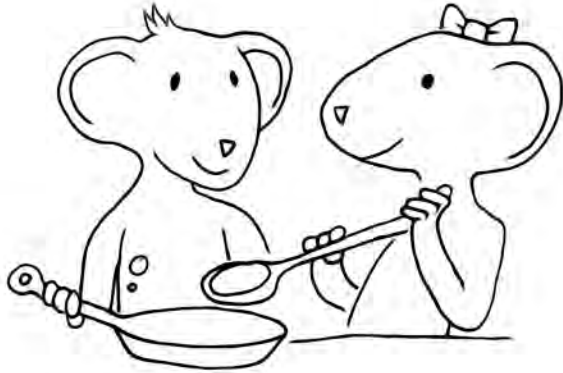
Adults: This story was designed to help children cope with fears and worries related to COVID-19. Please read it by yourself first and think about how you will use it with your child. Review the parent guide and the accompanying booklet *Trinka and Sam's Questions*. Even if you choose not to read specific pages to your child, the story, the booklet, and the parents' guide at the end of the book, may help you better understand your child's reactions to COVID-19. If you decide to read the story with your child, you may want to encourage your child to color in some of the pictures. If people in your area are wearing masks when they go outside, you and your child can color masks on the mice when they are outside.



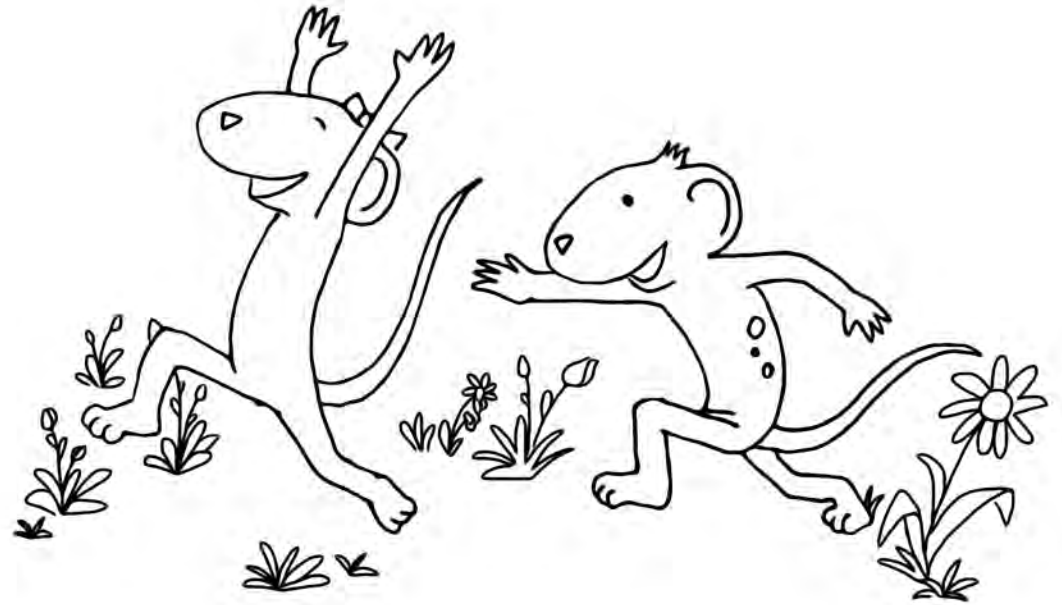
This is Trinka.



And this is Sam.



They are neighbors, and they like to play together.



In the spring, they run outside and welcome the flowers.



And when it rains, they love to go puddle stomping.

— Come on Sam.

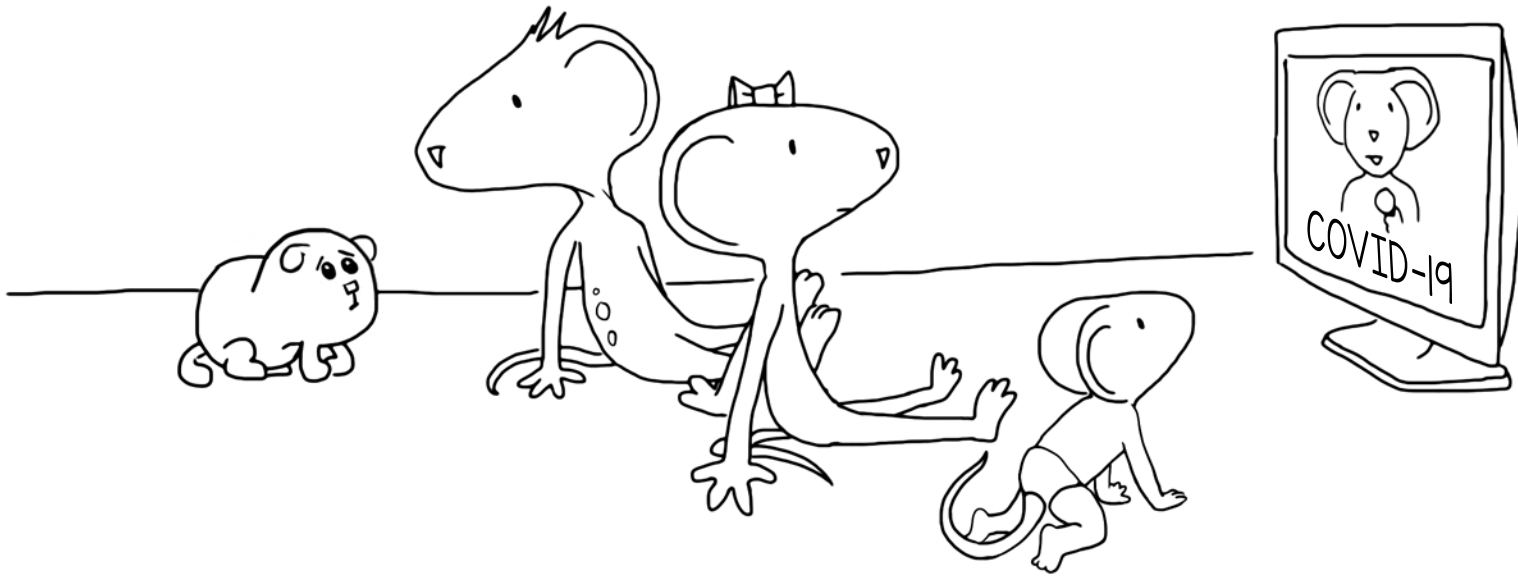
Coming.

Trinka, let's go. ---



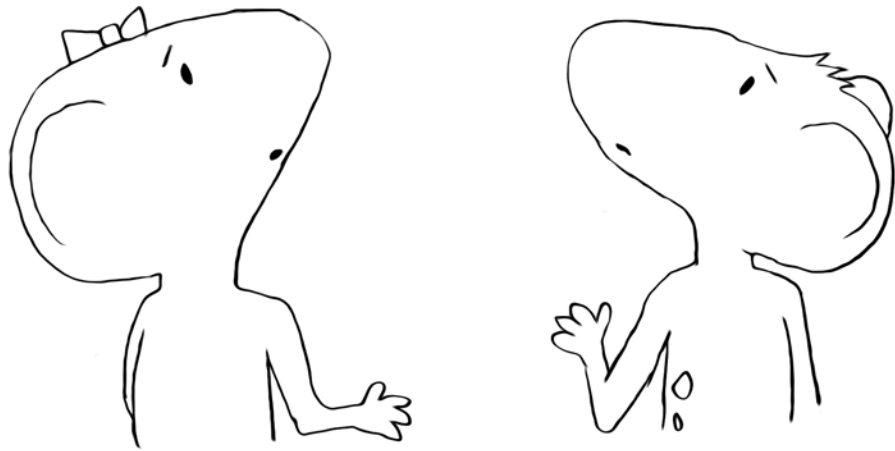
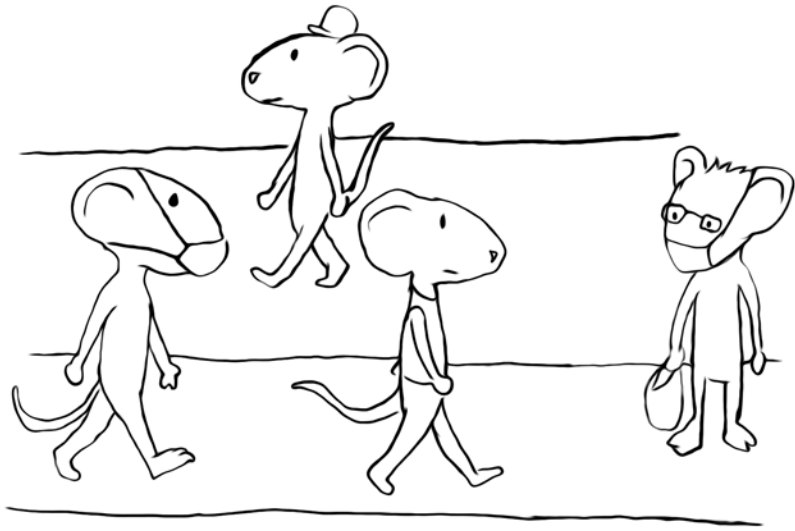
But it's so much fun.

And they always listen when it's time to stop. Well, . . . almost always.



One day while they were watching TV at Sam's house, they heard about an illness that was spreading and making lots of people sick. The grown-ups on TV were worried.

Trinka and Sam were worried too. Even Sam's baby brother, Cal, and their pet Juju seemed to know that something scary was happening.



A few days later, they saw people wearing masks on their faces. They didn't understand why.

They saw people buying lots of groceries, and sometimes the things they wanted weren't in the store. That was strange.

What is c..or..oona?

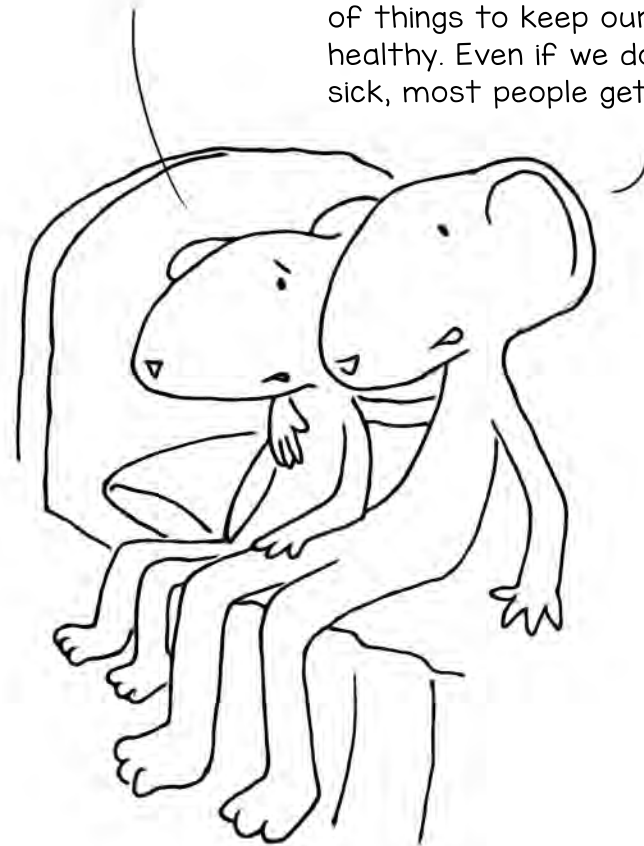
Well, that's a good question.
What did you hear?



Are you going to get sick?

Will I get sick?

We hope not. We're doing lots
of things to keep ourselves
healthy. Even if we do get
sick, most people get well.



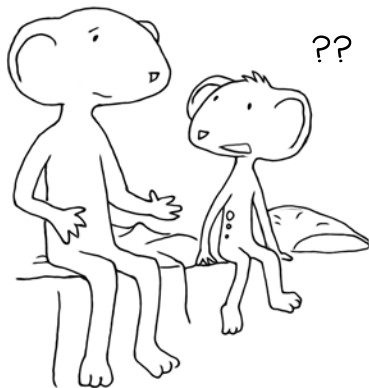
That night Trinkka and Sam asked their parents lots of questions and talked to them about their worries. Their parents listened carefully. Then they helped them understand why people were worried about this new BIG virus and what they could do to stay safe.

NOTE: You can add pages from the booklet Trinkka and Sam's Questions after this page.

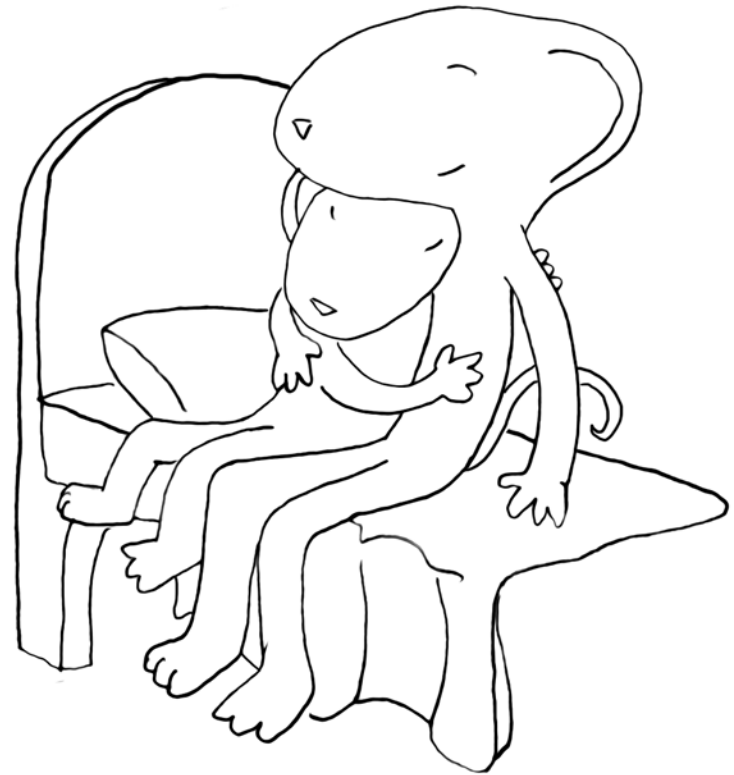
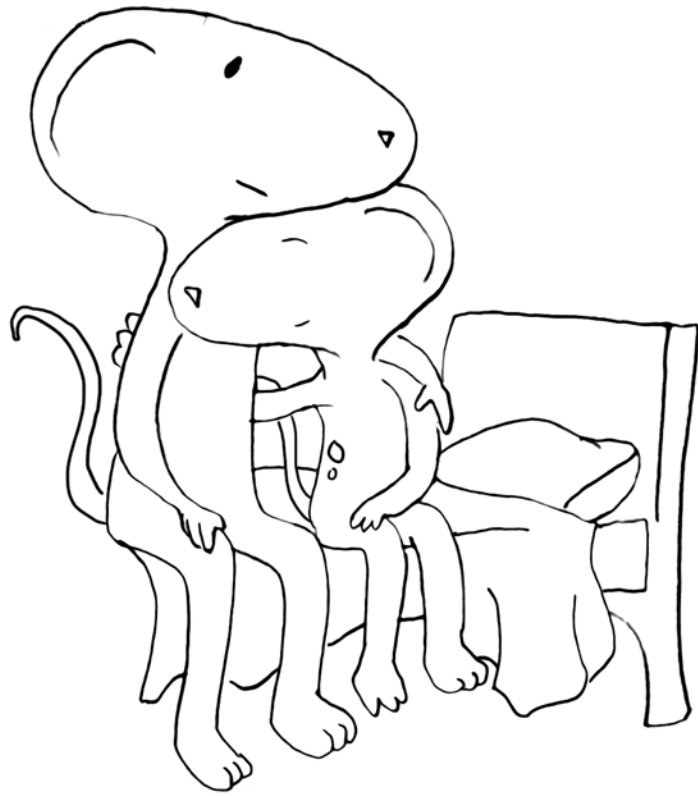
Trinka and Sam's Questions & Worries

Note for Parents and other Caregivers

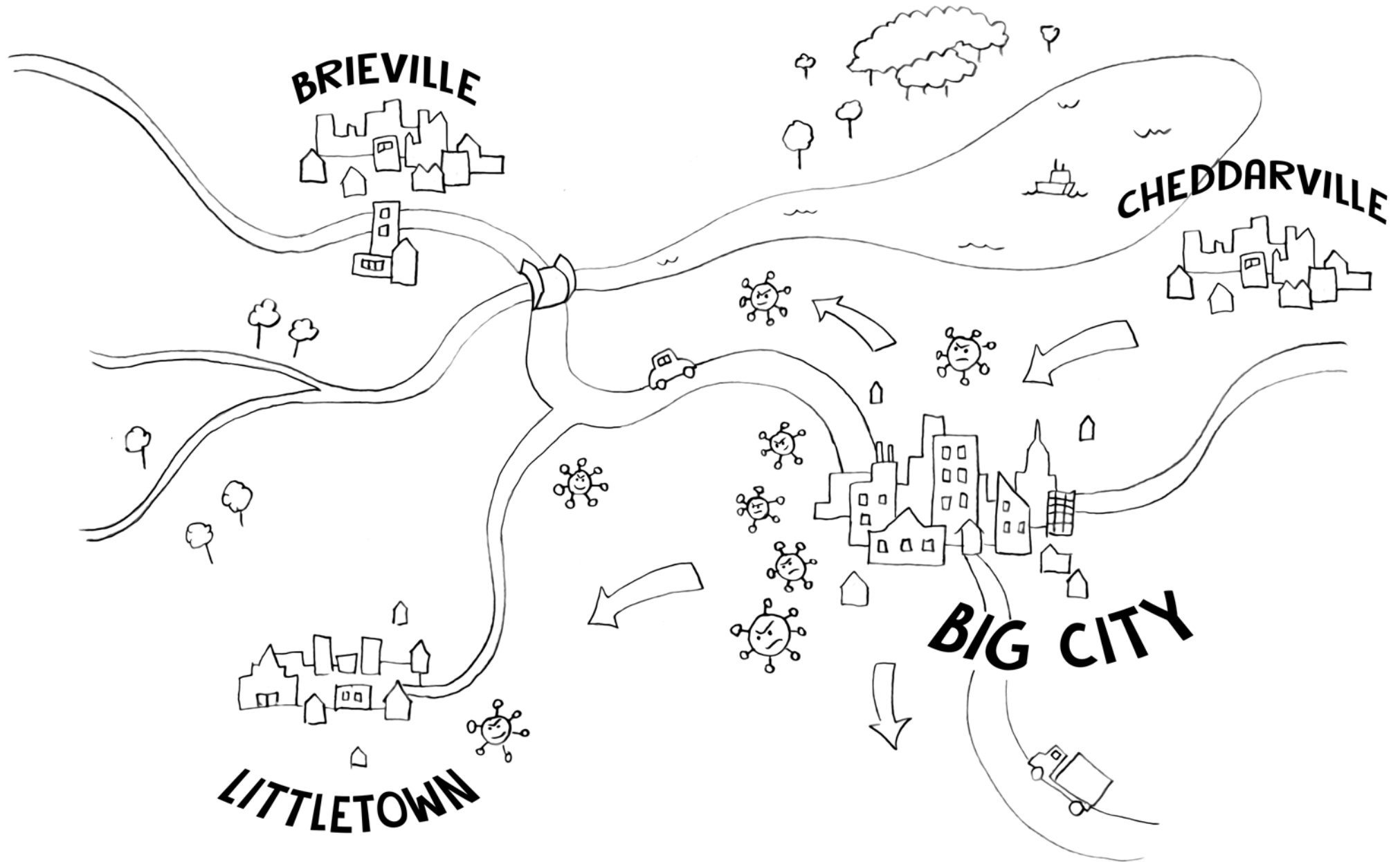
- Trinka and Sam had lots of questions.
- Their questions are included in a companion booklet Trinka and Sam's Questions, which can be downloaded from <http://piploproductions.com/trinka-and-sam-virus/>
- Your child may have some of these questions too.
- Look through the pages and decide which ones you want to include when you read the story with your child.
- You may choose to leave out pages if you don't think they'll be helpful because of how the virus is affecting your community and family or if your family has already talked about these things.



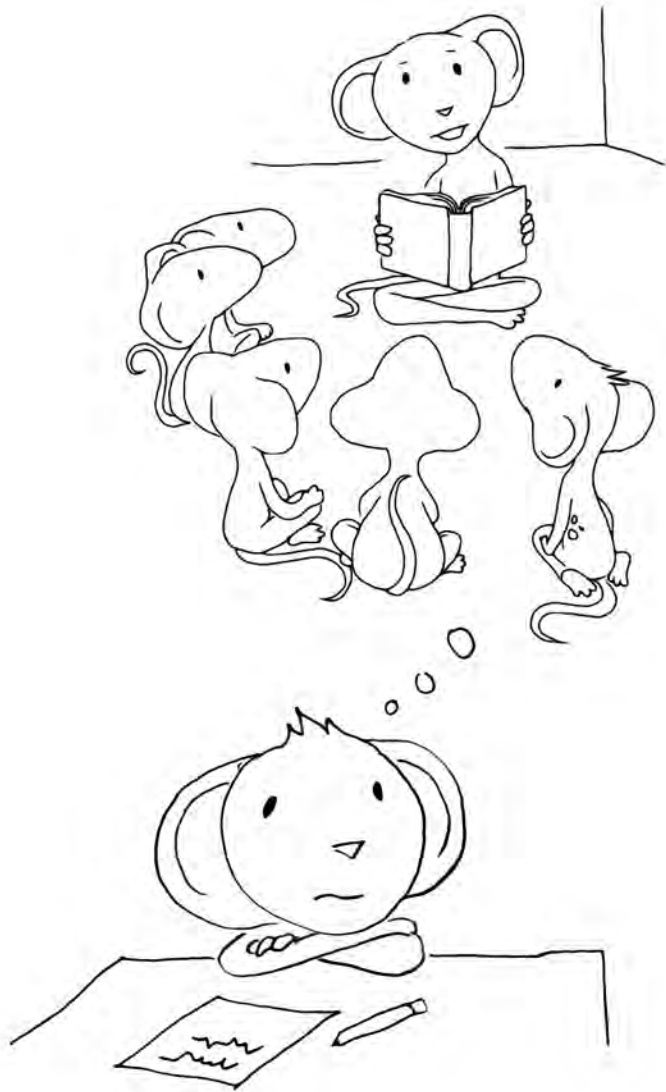
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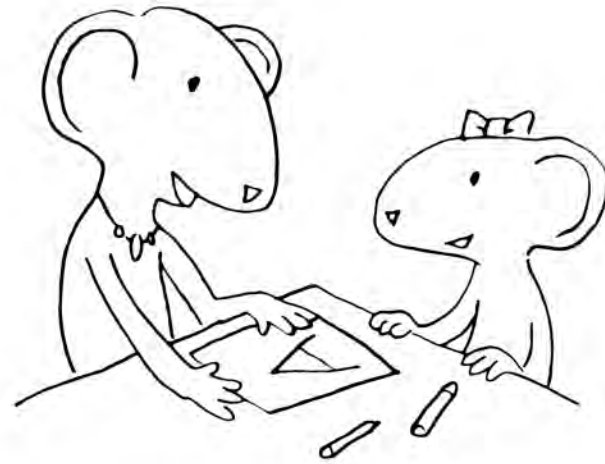
Trinka and Sam felt a lot better after talking to their parents. Even though the virus was still in Little town, it was good to share their worries and think about all the good things their family and town were doing to stay safe.



As the virus continued to spread, their lives changed in many ways . . .

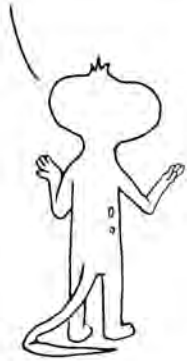


Sam couldn't go to school. He missed his teacher and his friends. He wondered when he would see them again.



Trinka's mom tried to teach her things. Sometimes that went well, and other times both Trinka and her mom ended up feeling very frustrated.

Why can't I go to Trinkka's house?



I'm sorry Sam. I wish you could.



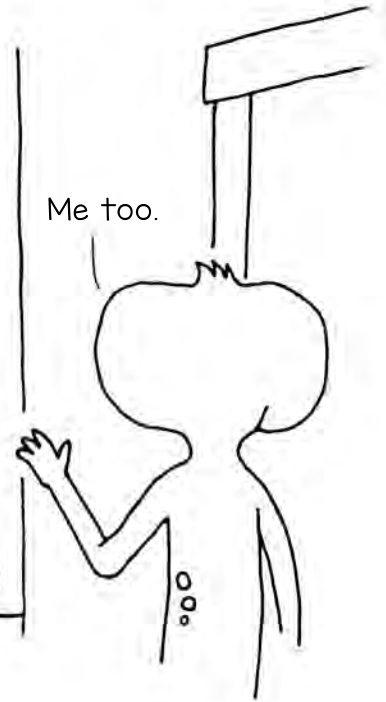
Sorry Trinkka. They're asking all of us to stay away from others, so the virus can't spread.



Hi Sam. I wish you could come over.



Me too.



Trinka and Sam wanted to play with each other, but they couldn't.

They could wave at each other and play rock, paper, scissors from their doors, but it wasn't the same. They missed each other.

We're closing the playground. We'll open it when the spread of the virus is under control.

I'm sorry. If someone has the virus and plays in the playground and then you play in it, you could catch the virus.

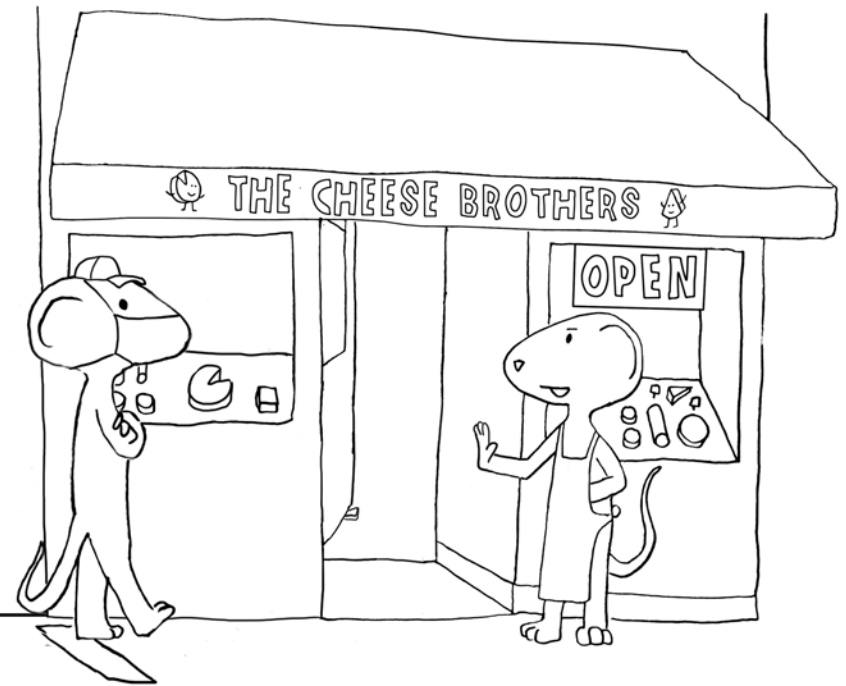
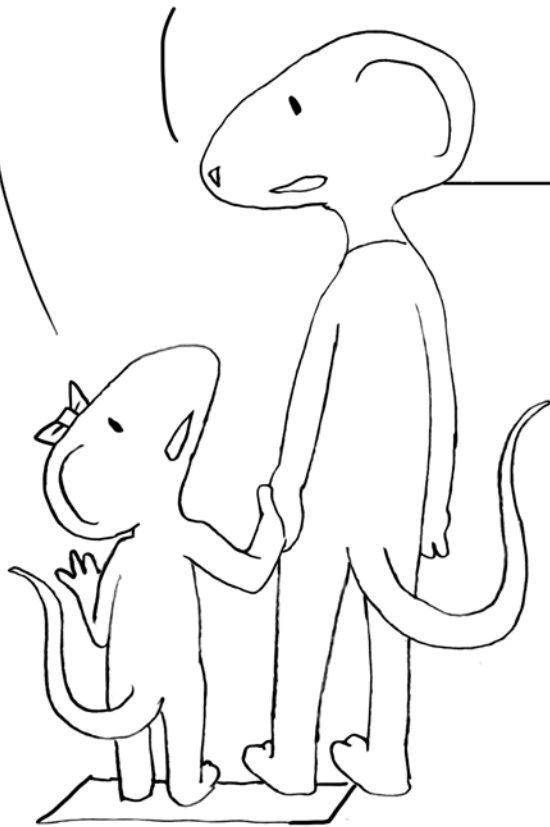


They could go for walks outside, but the playground was closed. Trinkka was upset. She wanted to play on the slide, but Officer Clemmons said they had to close the playground to keep the virus from spreading. By closing the playground, they were working together to stay safe.

Why do we have to wait in line?

We need to leave space between us and people who don't live with us. Pretend that a car needs to park between us.

They're trying to make sure the store is not too crowded, so the virus can't spread. Remember this virus likes crowds.



When they went to the cheese store, they had to wait in a long line. Trinkka's mom explained that they did this to make sure the store wasn't crowded. This made things safer for the workers and everyone who went to the store.

Remember green light means go, and red light means stop.

Oh, and one more rule, you always have to stop at the tape marks on the ground.

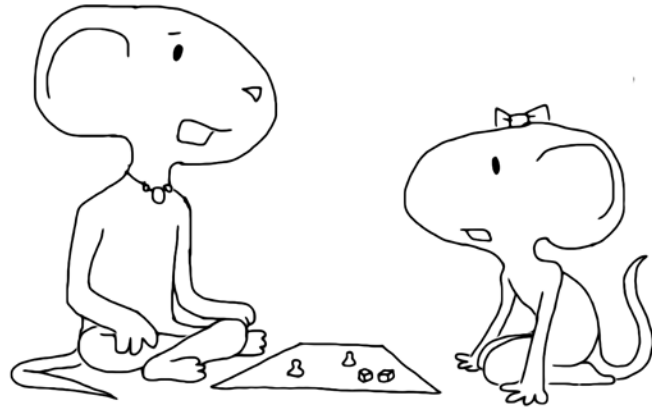
GREEN LIGHT!



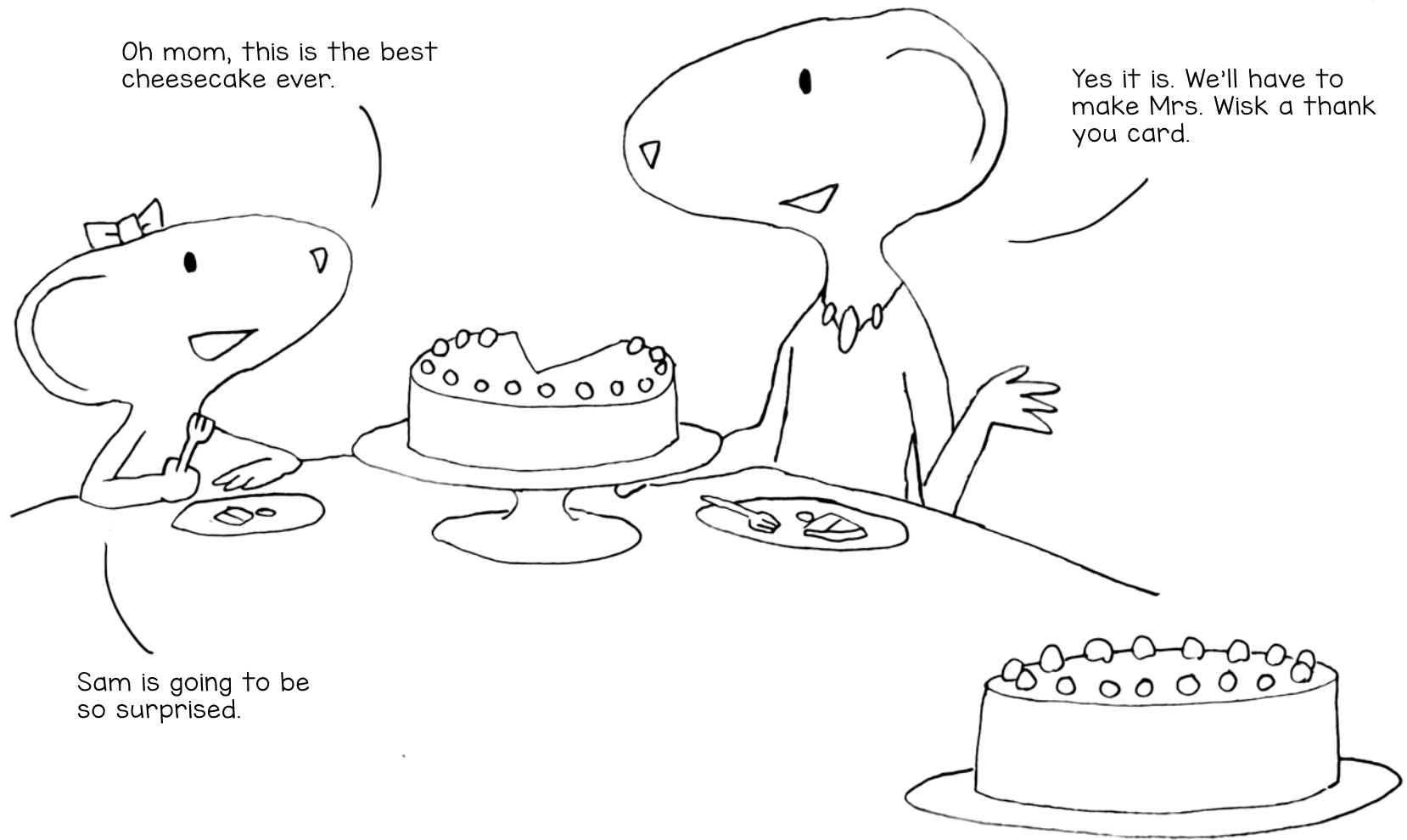
Waiting was boring, but it wasn't all bad. They met a really nice lady, Mrs. Wisk. She played red light, green light with Trinka and her mom. Pretty soon the whole line was playing. It made the time go much faster, and it was nice to make new friends.



Mrs. Wisk was buying cheese to make a cheesecake. She couldn't see her grandchildren right now, but that afternoon, they were going to bake together by video. When she learned that Trinkka loved cheesecake, she shared her secret recipe with them.



It was hard to have to stay inside and not be able to do the things they usually did. Each family tried to do fun things to make the time pass. Trinka and her mom played lots of games.



Oh mom, this is the best
cheesecake ever.

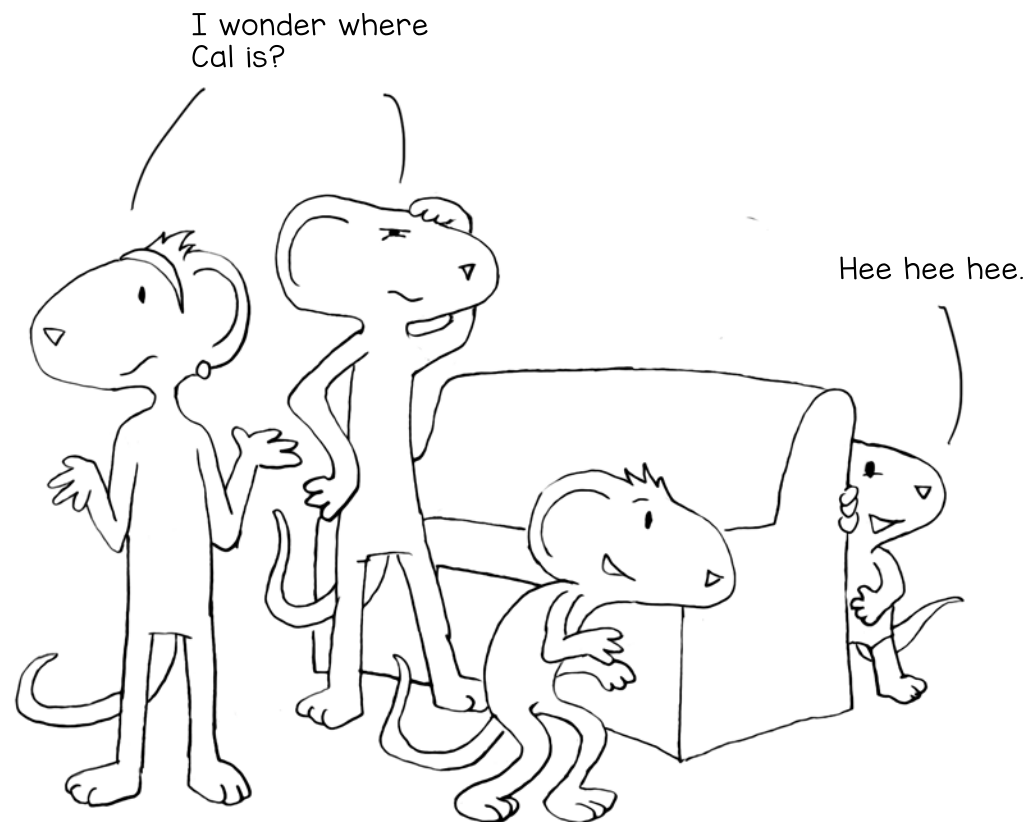
Yes it is. We'll have to
make Mrs. Wisk a thank
you card.

Sam is going to be
so surprised.

Oh, and of course, they made cheesecake following Mrs. Wisk's secret recipe, and they decided to share the love and make one for Sam's family too.



Sam and his family planted seeds and watched them grow.



They also played lots of hide and seek. Cal loved hide and seek even though he wasn't so good at hiding.

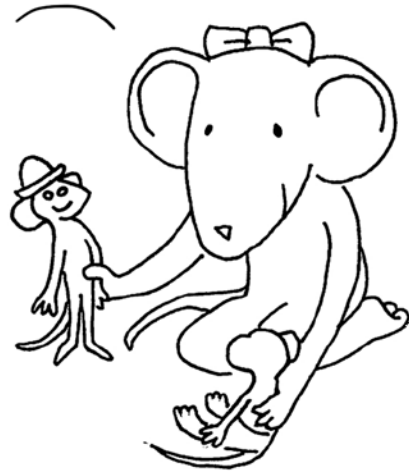


The families had good times, but they also had hard times. There were days full of tears and times when Trinka wouldn't listen.



There were times when Trinka needed her mom, but her mom was busy trying to take care of so many things.

Mr. Finkle, you can't come over now. We're still friends, but there's this mean virus . . .



Juju, mom still loves us. She's on an important call, and we have to wait.

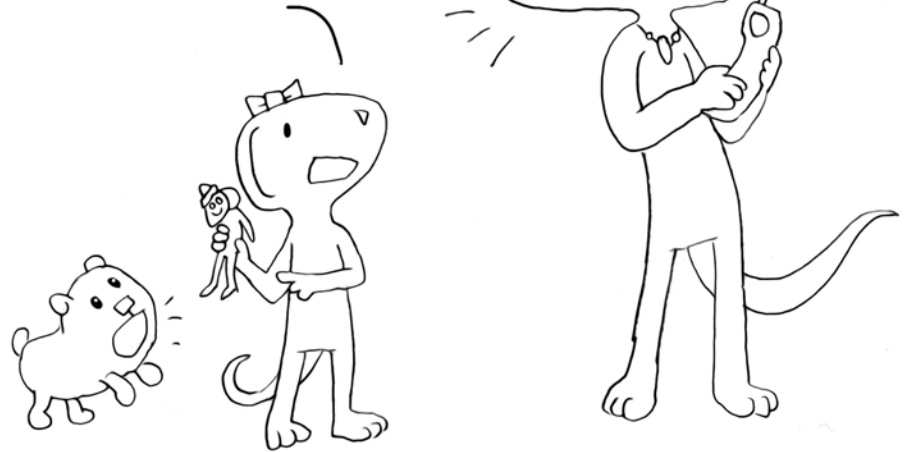


There was the time when Trinkka's mom had an important call. She told Trinkka that she needed to play by herself.

Trinka!!

I told you I had an important call.

Mom, Mr. Finkle and Juju want to show you what they made.



Trinka tried to listen and follow directions, but it was hard to wait. She and Juju decided to see what her mom was doing. Her mom was not happy about this.

I know it's hard.
Sometimes mommies
have to take care of
important things.

Let's think about
what we can do.

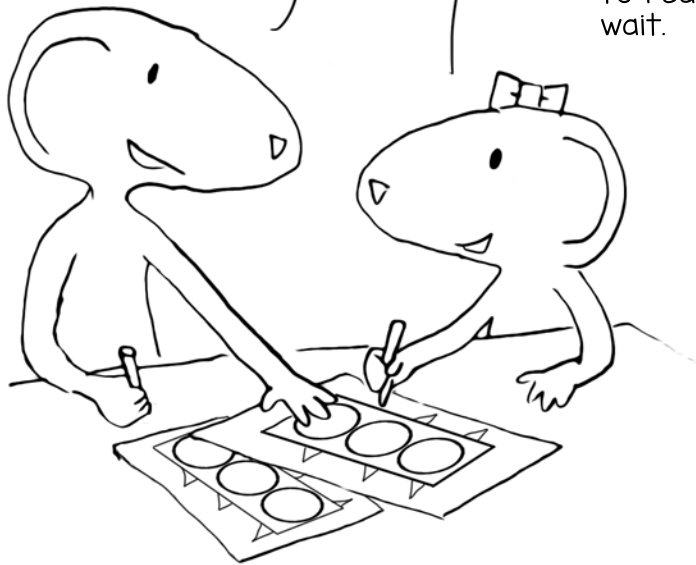
Green light means I can ask
you a question, but I have to
be quiet.

Yellow means careful
'cause you're kind of
busy.

Red means I need
to really try to
wait.

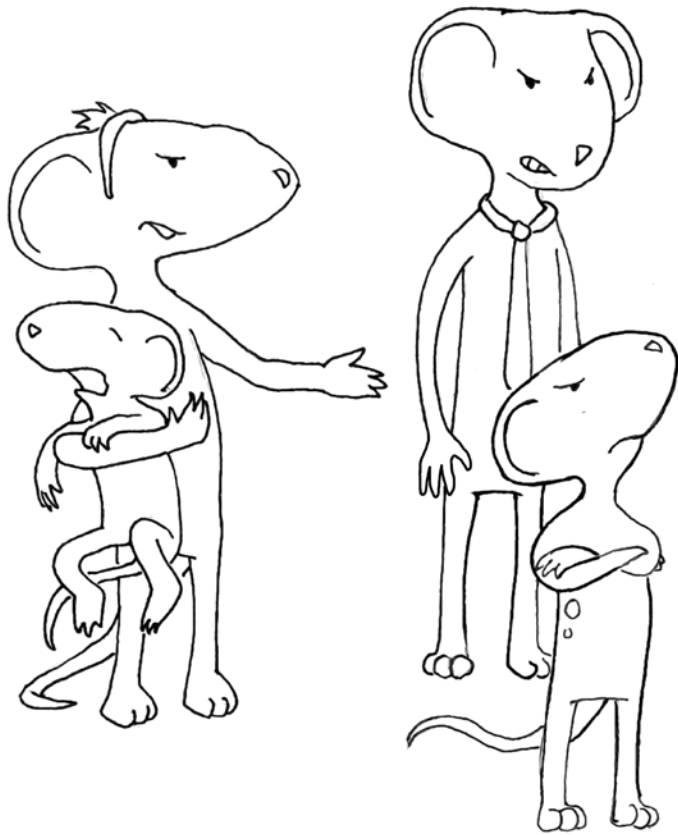
I am
so
sorry.

That's ok. It's
happening to all
of us. Family
comes first.

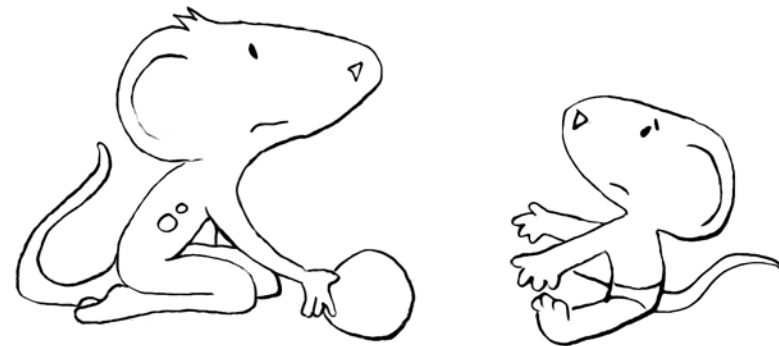
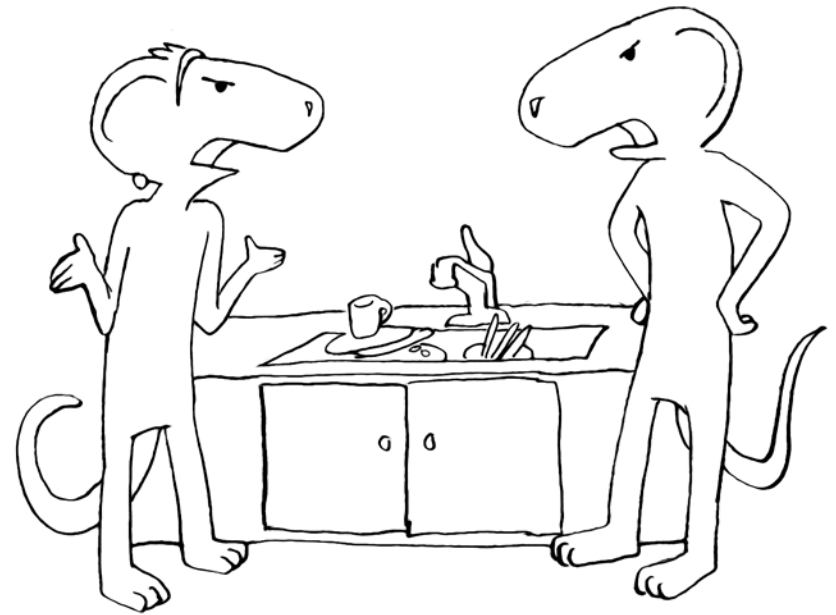


Trinka's mom took time to
calm down. Then they talked
about what happened, how
they both felt, and they made
a plan. Together they drew
signs that Trinkka's mom could
put up when she was busy.

Trinka mostly followed the
signs, but it was hard when
she wanted her mommy.



At Sam's house, they were also having problems. There were times when EVERYONE was in a bad mood.



Sometimes the grown-ups were mad at each other. Sam and Cal did NOT like it when this happened. They were worried.

Why can't I go to school?

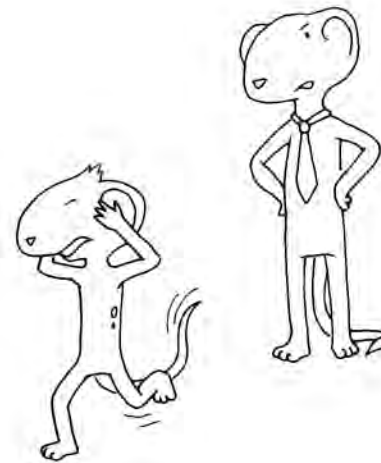


??? I know I've explained this before.

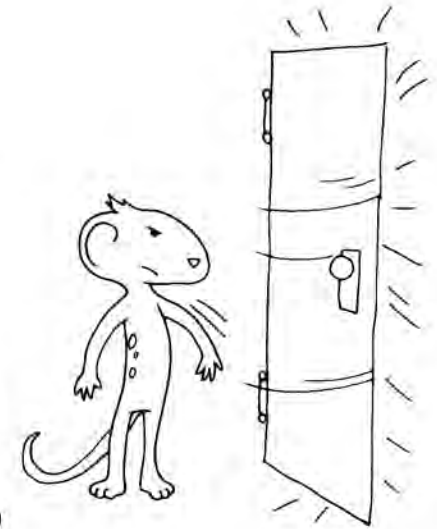
Sam got mad too. It was hard to understand why things were so different.



He took his brother's toy.

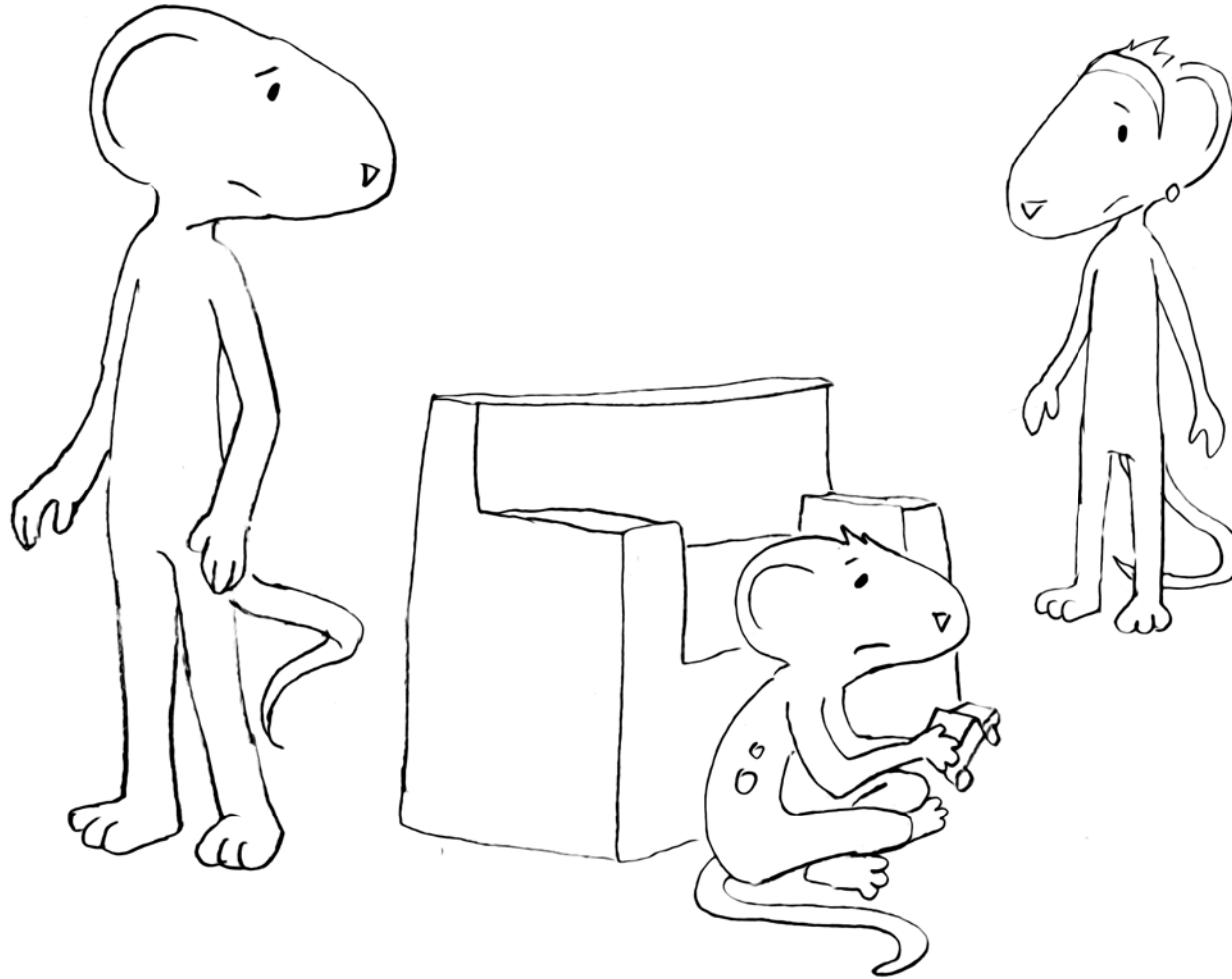


He didn't listen to his dad.

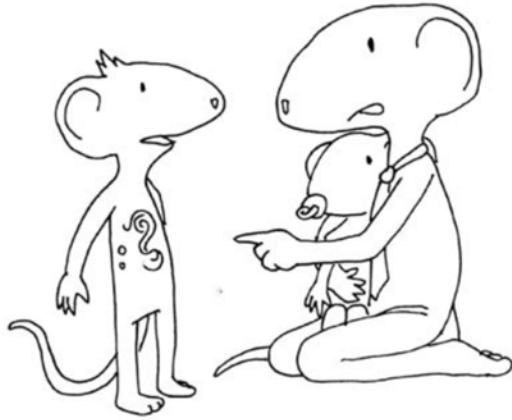


He slammed the door.

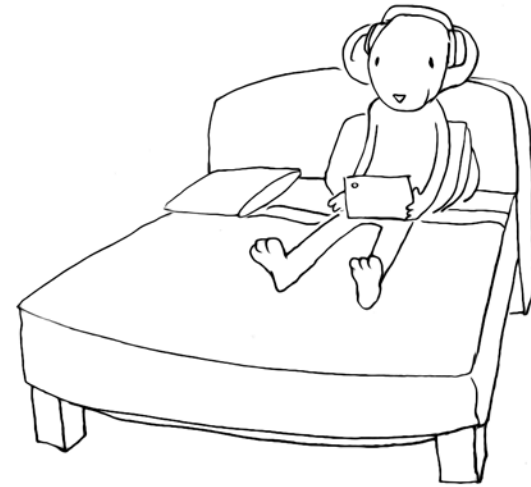
His parents tried to be patient, but when Sam misbehaved, they sometimes didn't know what to do.



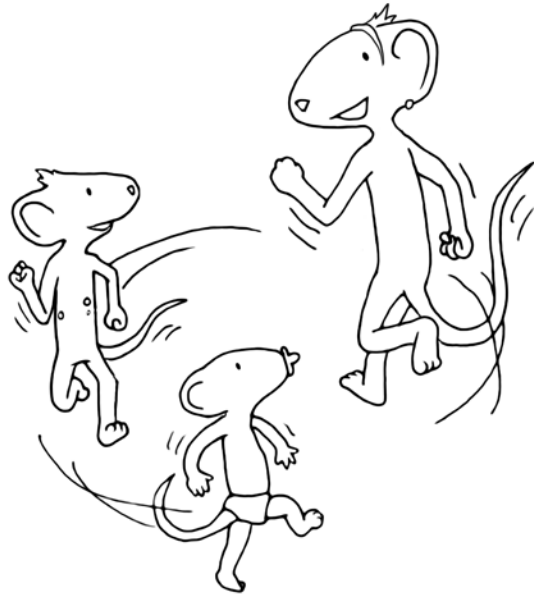
After Sam misbehaved, he felt bad. His parents felt bad too.



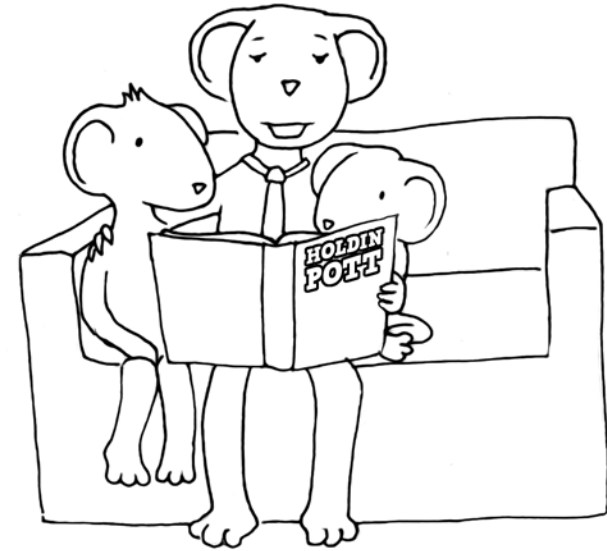
They talked about how they were feeling inside their bodies.



They helped each other get some alone time, so they would have more energy and patience.



They ran around to get the icky out, to have fun, and to help everyone to feel a little better.



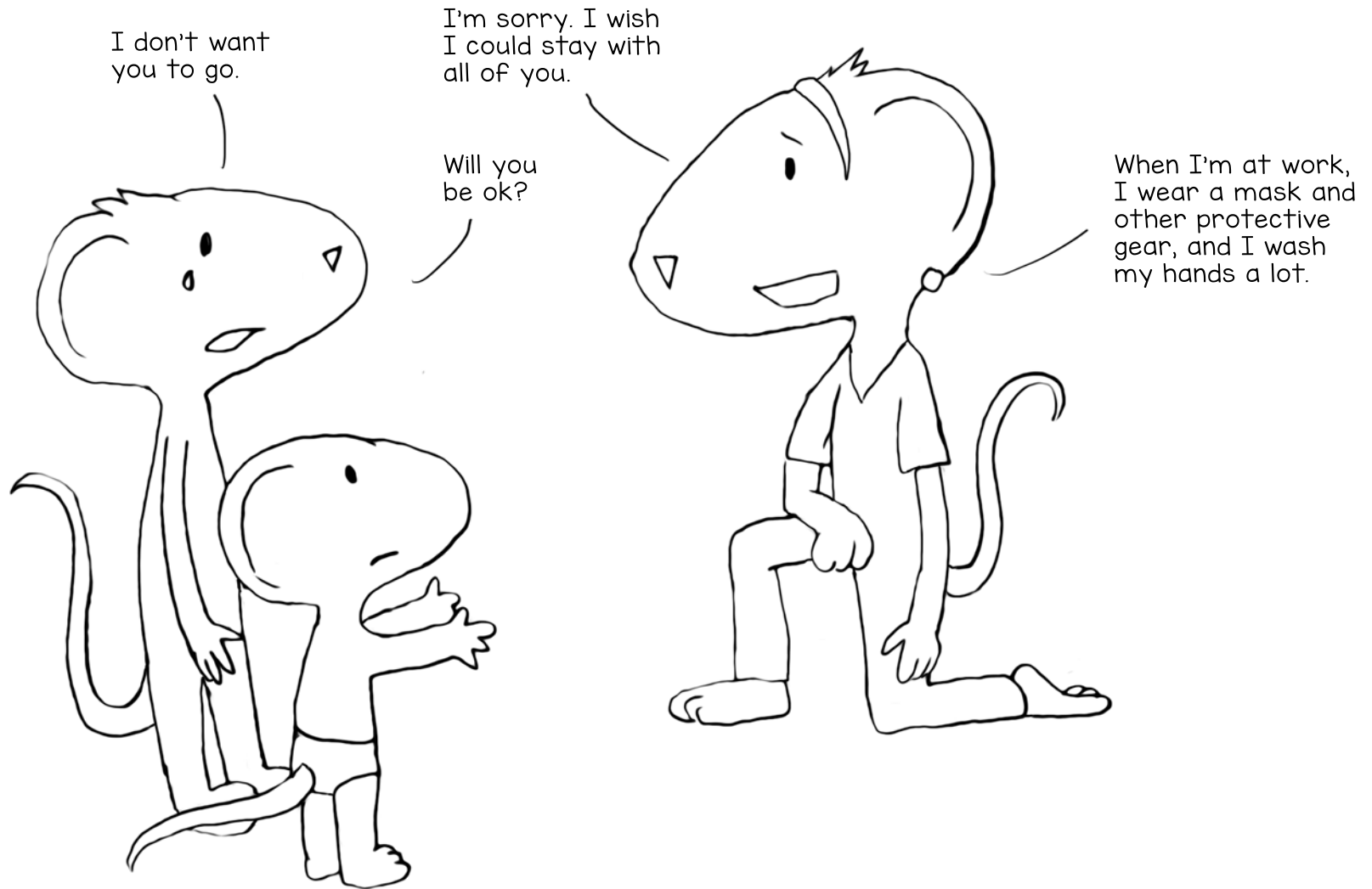
They read books to talk about their feelings.

They knew that everyone was under pressure, and they all needed help, so they thought about different things that they could do.

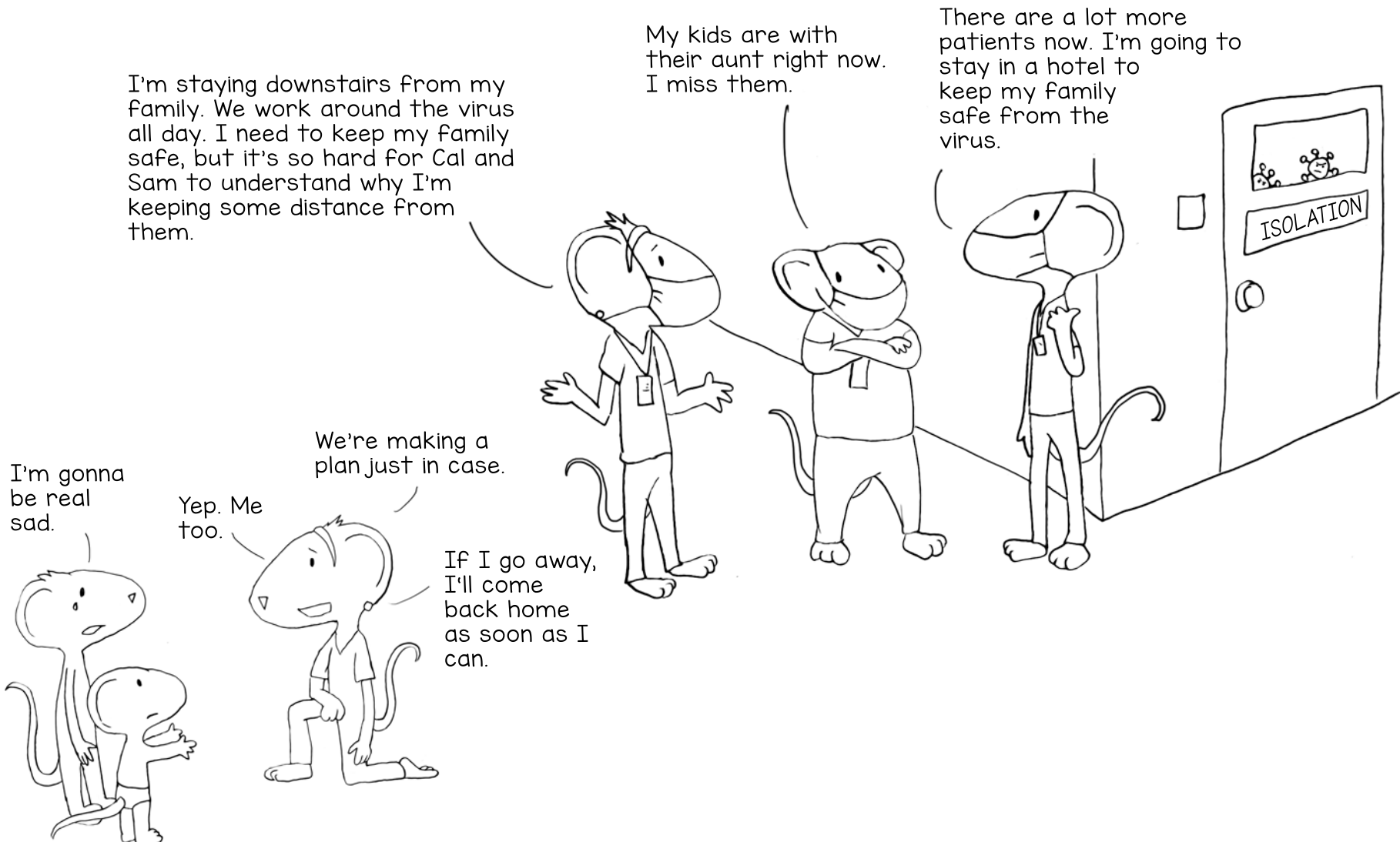


All over Littletown, families were worried for different reasons. Some knew people who were sick. Others worried about jobs because businesses were closing.

Even though the kids were little, they knew things were happening.



Sam's mom worked in a hospital caring for people who need help. They were proud of the work she did, but they also worried about her. She told them about the different ways that she kept herself safe from the virus.



I'm staying downstairs from my family. We work around the virus all day. I need to keep my family safe, but it's so hard for Cal and Sam to understand why I'm keeping some distance from them.

My kids are with their aunt right now. I miss them.

There are a lot more patients now. I'm going to stay in a hotel to keep my family safe from the virus.

I'm gonna be real sad.

Yep. Me too.

We're making a plan just in case.

If I go away, I'll come back home as soon as I can.

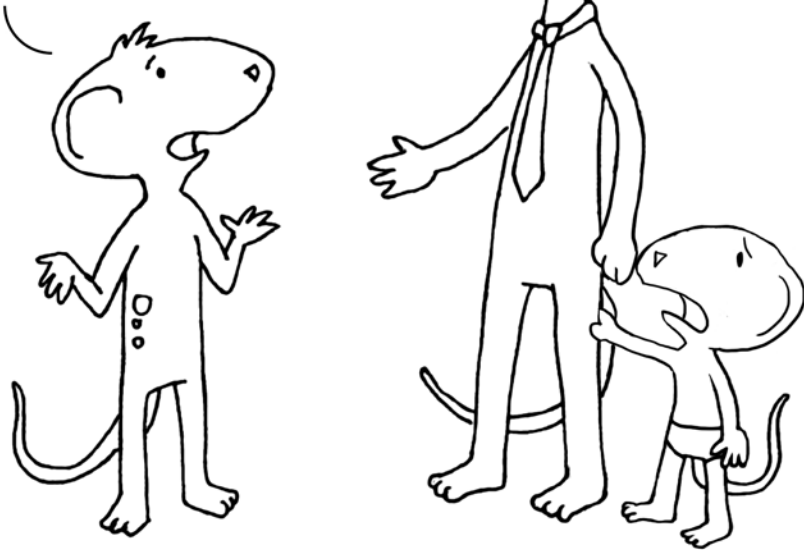
She also told them that if the virus spread more, she might need to stay somewhere else. Because of her job, she was around lots of people who had the virus. She wanted to help people, but she also wanted to keep her family safe. Sam knew that his mommy was very brave, and he wanted to be brave too, but it was hard.

Most people are staying home, but people who have jobs taking care of others or helping our community have to go to work.

I know you miss her.

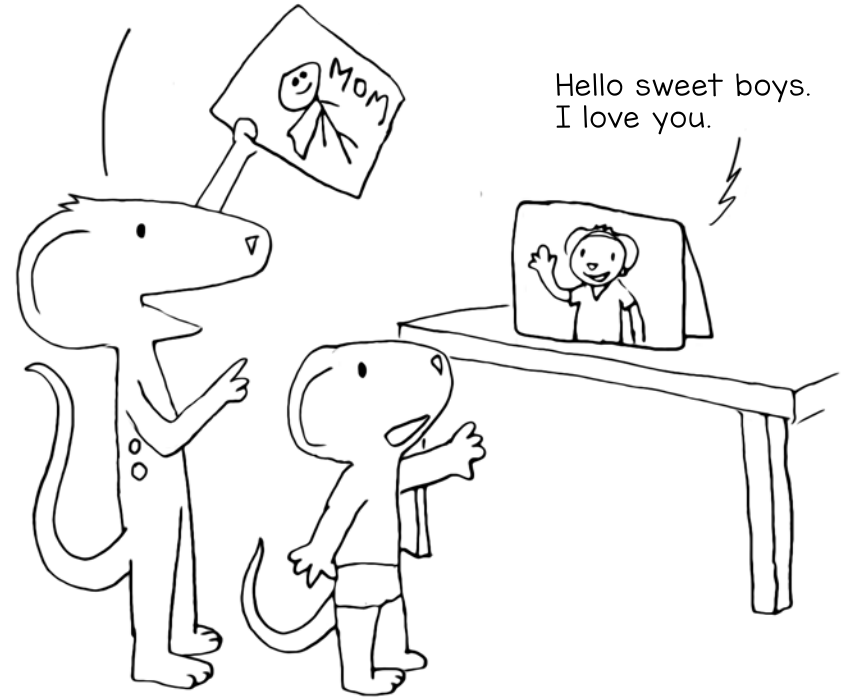
Your mom helps people who are sick. They really need her.

Why did mom have to go? Don't we have to stay home?



Sam and baby Cal didn't like when their mom went to work, but their dad was there for them.

Look mom. I drew a picture of you.



Hello sweet boys. I love you.

Their mom called them from the hospital. Even though she wasn't with them, they were always in her heart.

How's it been at your place?



We're glad to be together, but it's been stressful.

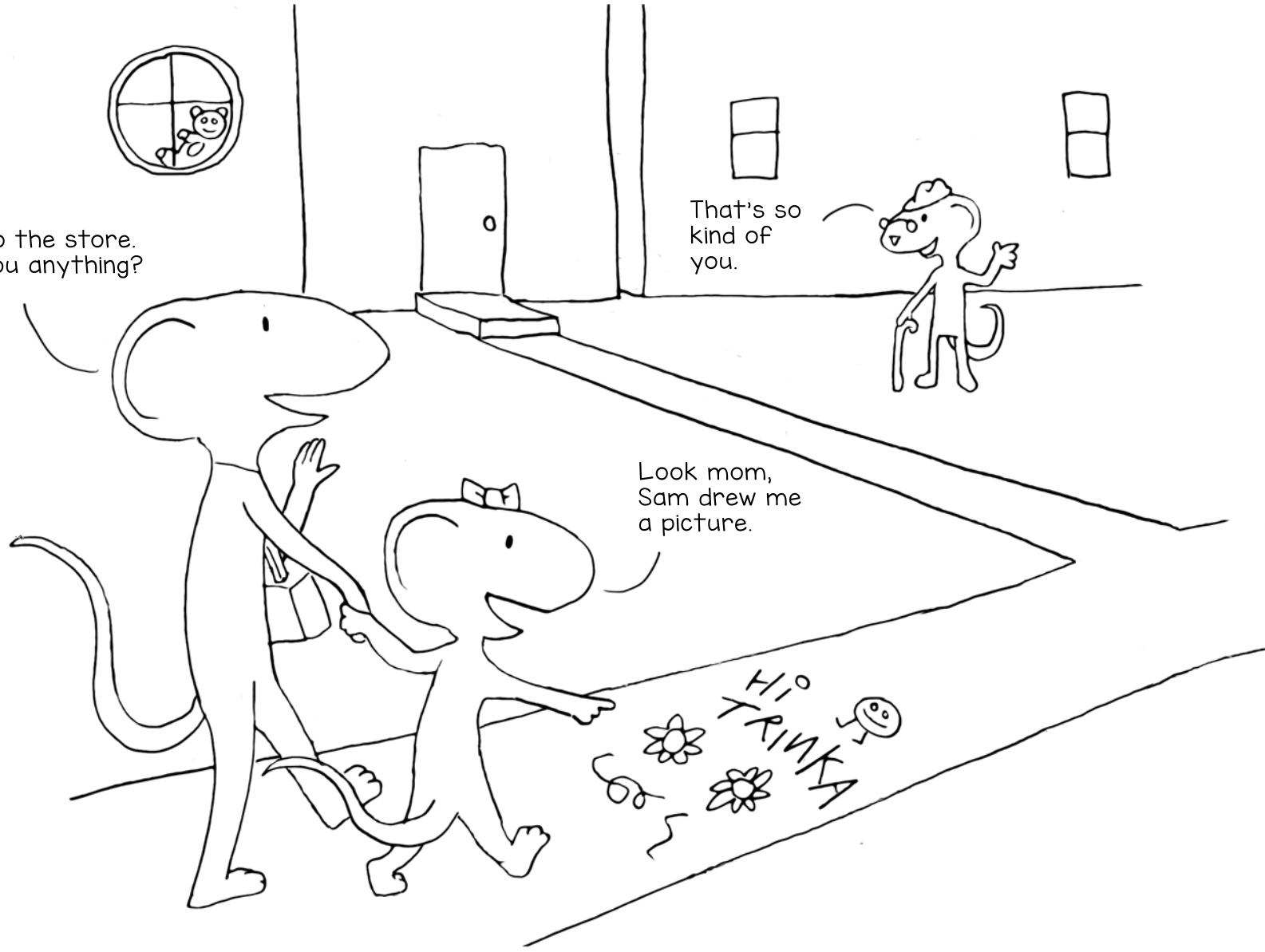


Working while caring for kids is hard. I was in the middle of a call when Sam bursts in crying 'cause Cal broke his toy and Cal announces he made a poop in his diaper.

At first I was so embarrassed, but people were so cool about it. They said we should take bets on who would have the next diaper change during a call.



For the parents, it really helped when they could talk to each other and get support. They were all juggling so many things. They talked about hard things, and they shared funny stories that made them laugh and realize they weren't alone. They also shared recipes and good ideas for things to do with kids. They found they could be together even while keeping physical space between them.



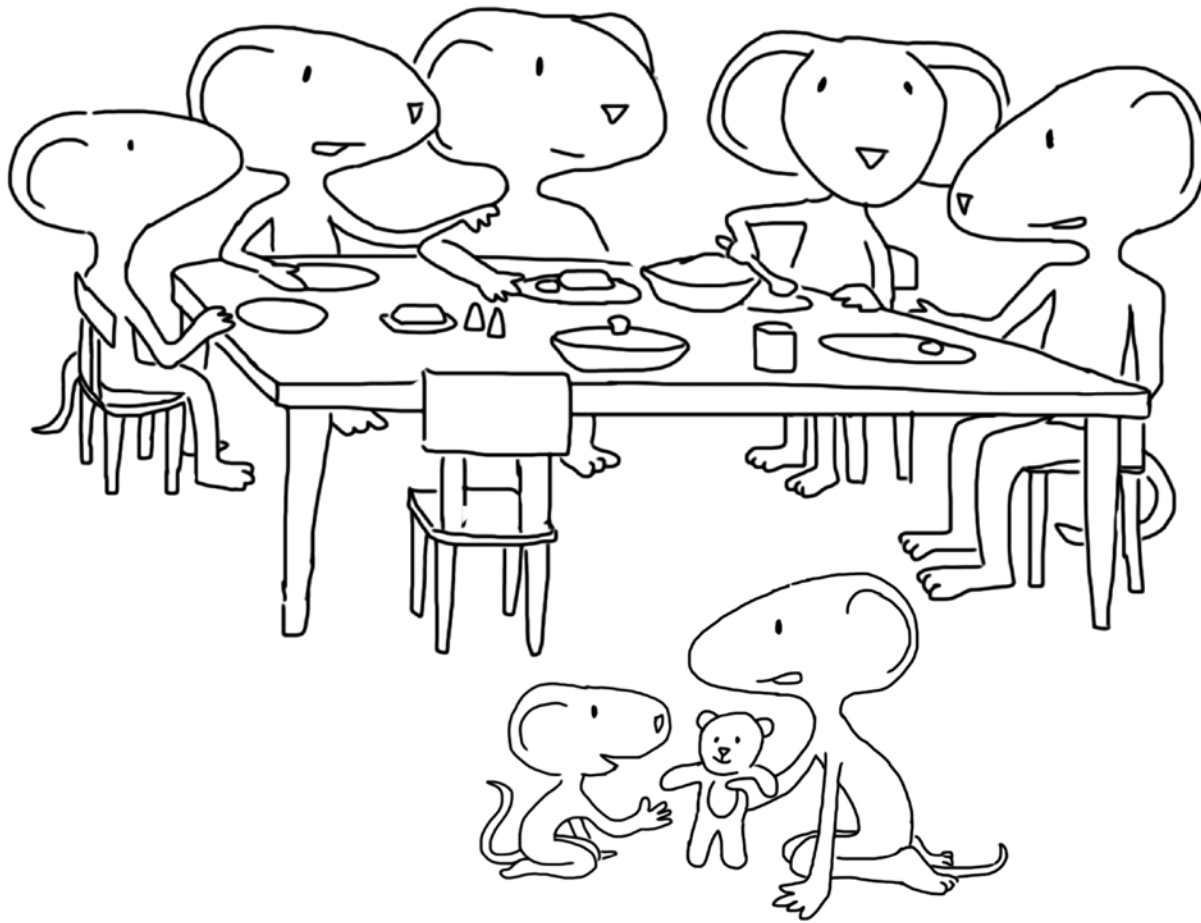
We're going to the store.
Can we get you anything?

That's so
kind of
you.

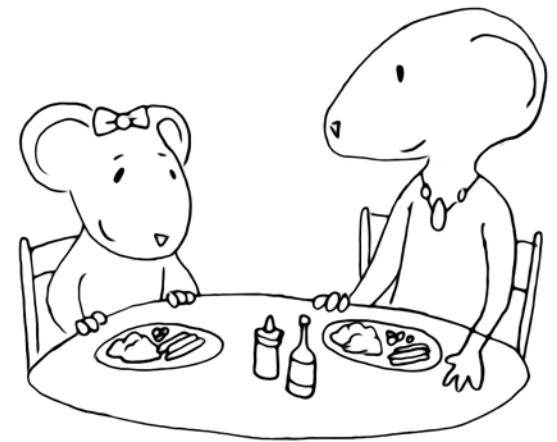
Look mom,
Sam drew me
a picture.

All over Littletown families did things to keep their community safe from the virus. They supported each other and found ways to help the kids.

Big families ate together.



And so did small ones.



They spent time together and tried to get back to simple routines, like making food and eating together.

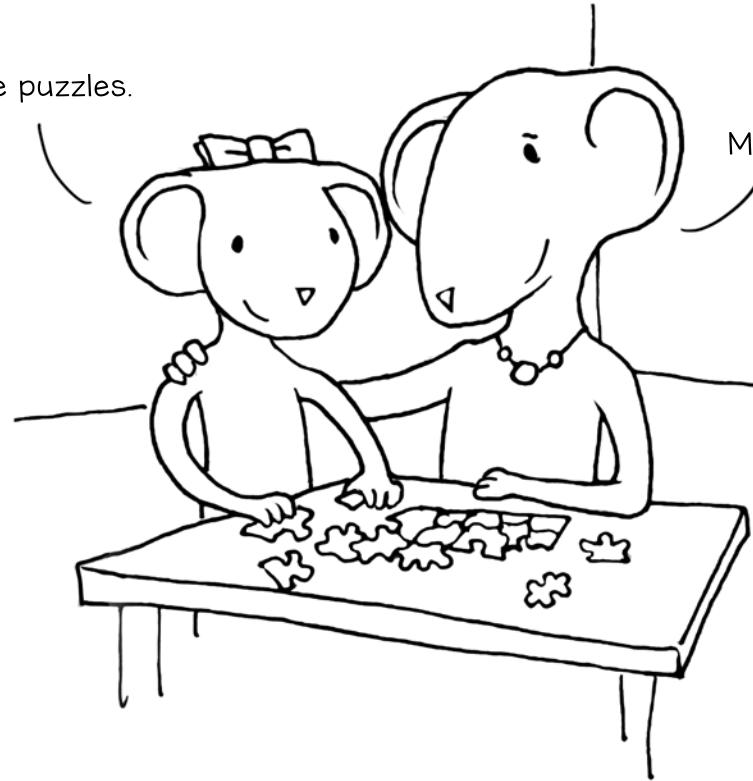
One more story
and then it's
bedtime.



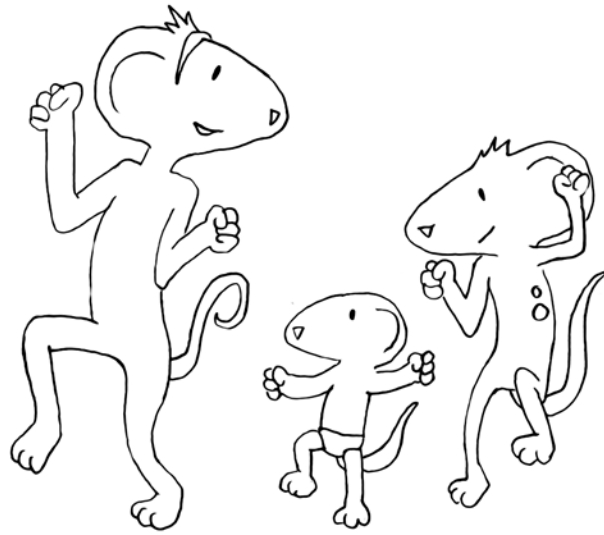
They tried to have regular
schedules.

I love puzzles.

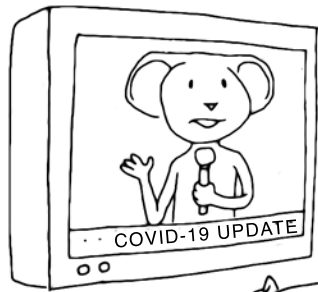
Me too.



And they found new things
that they liked to do
together.



They danced and exercised . . . a lot!



Mom, what's happening?



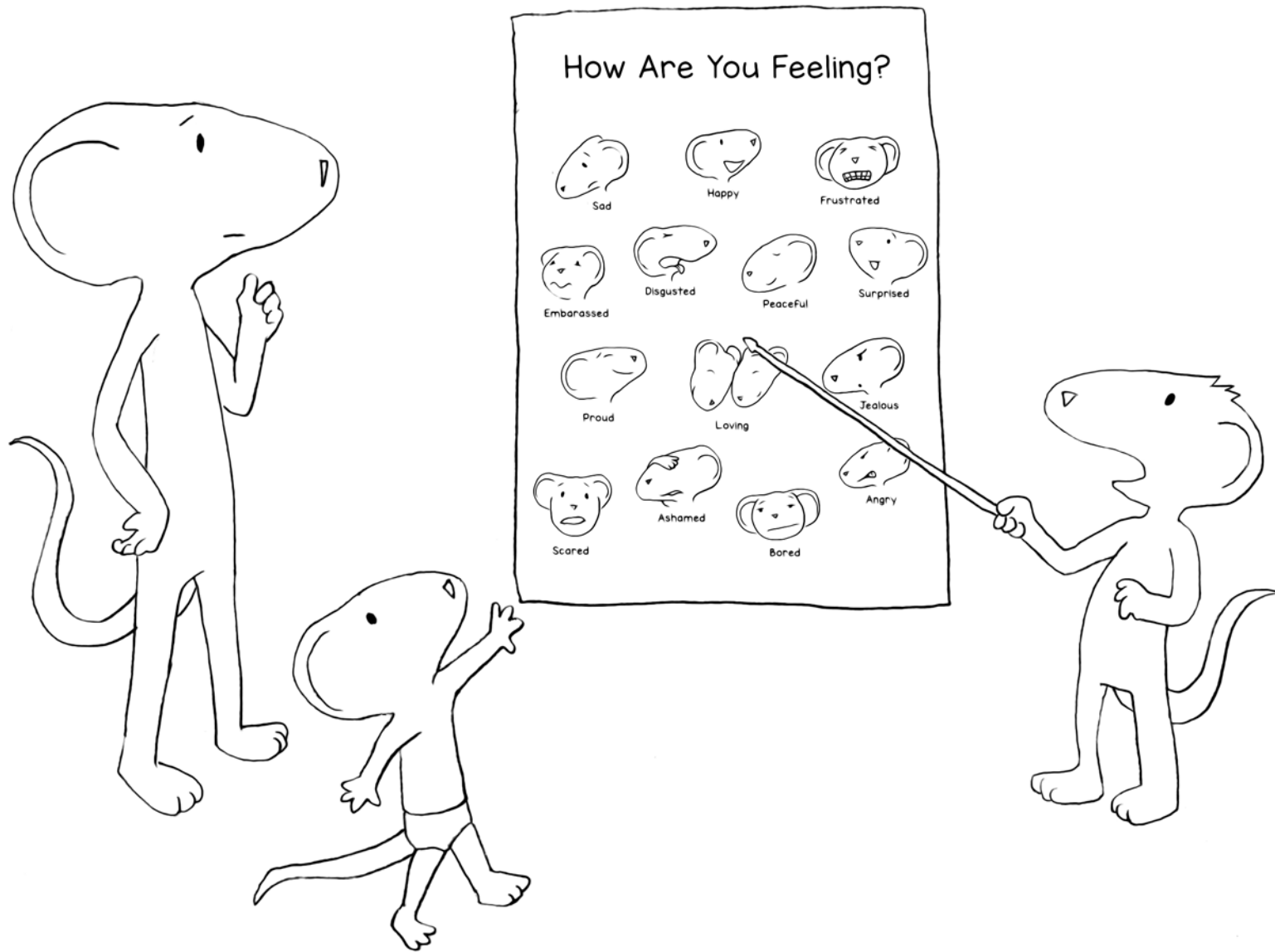
I think we know about this. Let's turn it off.

They thought about when to watch the news and when to turn it off.

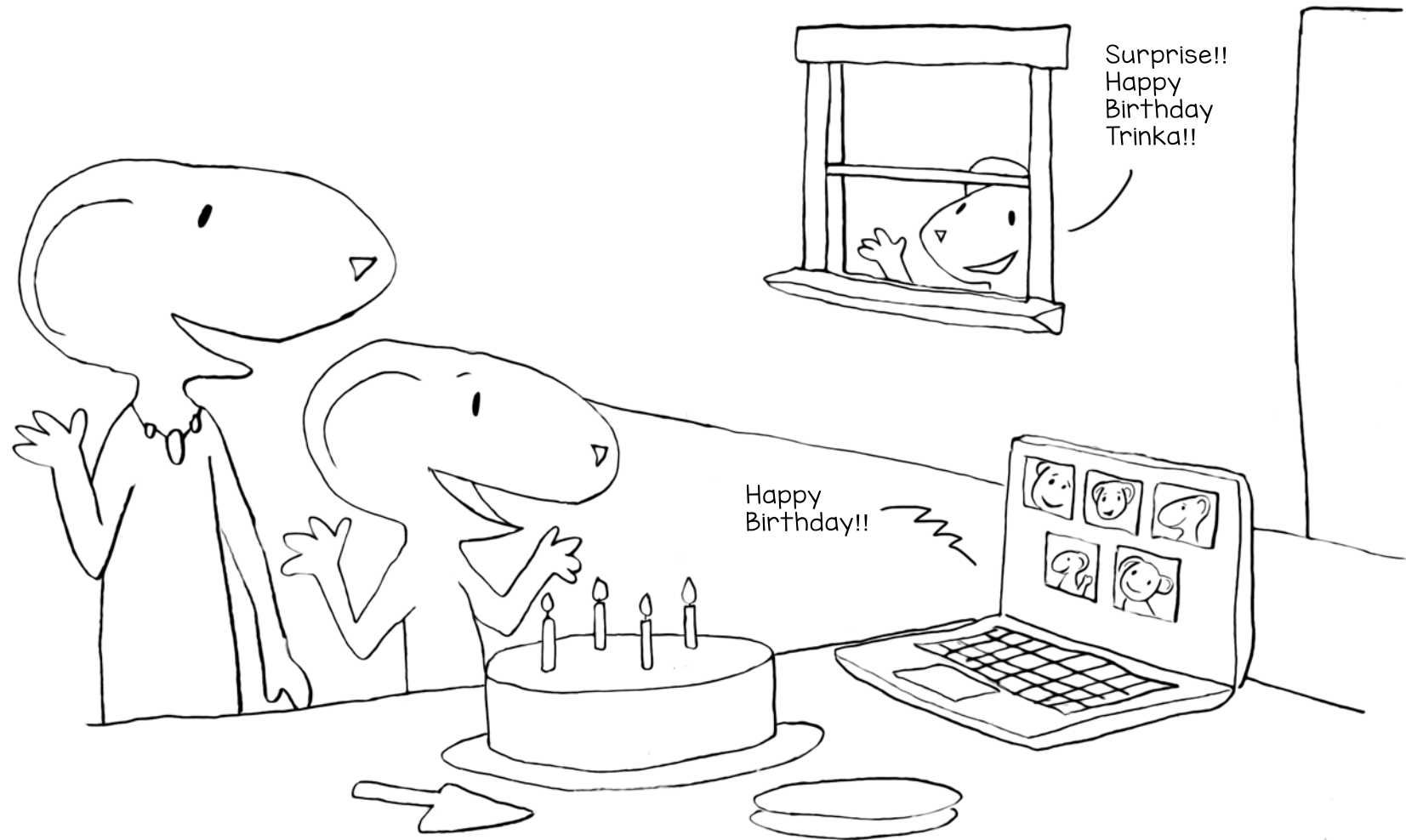


They gave each other big hugs.

They found ways to reduce their stress.



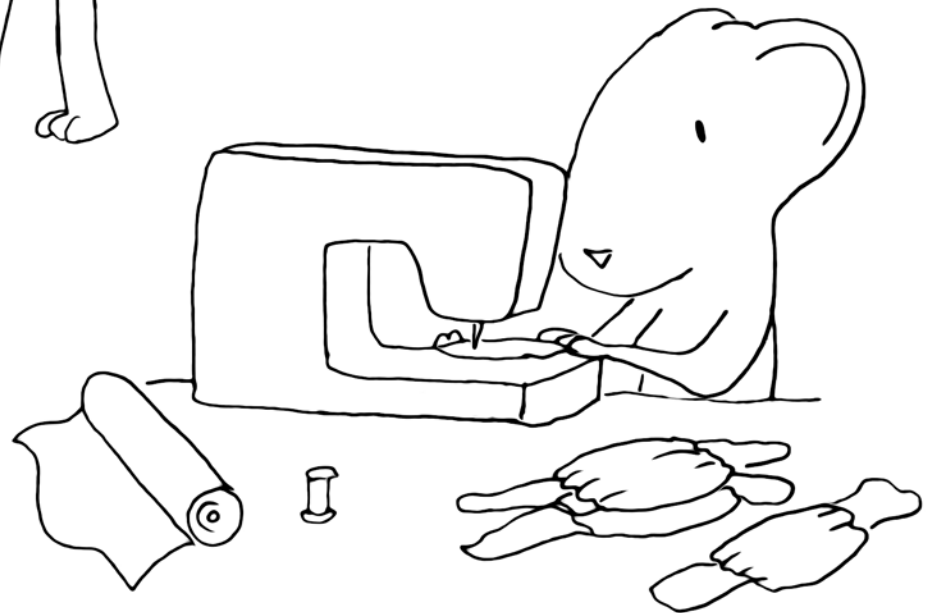
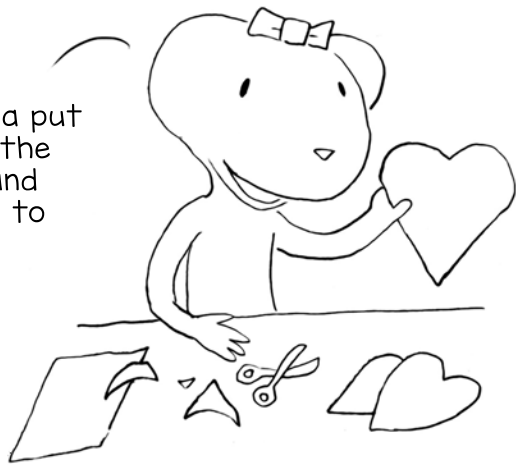
They talked about their feelings and figured out what they could do when they were feeling sad, angry, frustrated, embarrassed, or ashamed. They found moments of joy, calm, and victory.



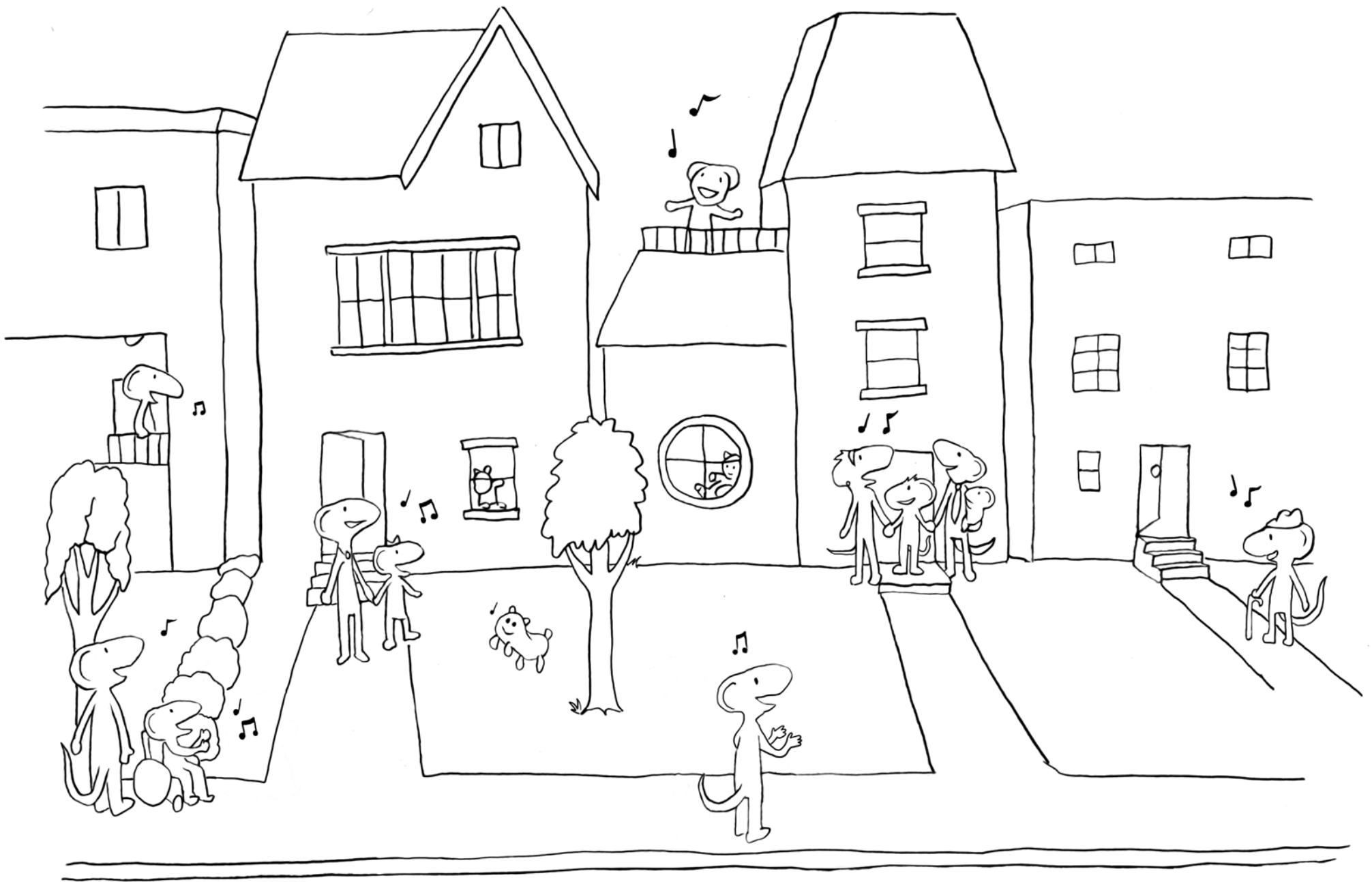
They were sad about missing special events like graduations and family birthdays, and they found new ways to celebrate. It wasn't the same, but it was beautiful and important.



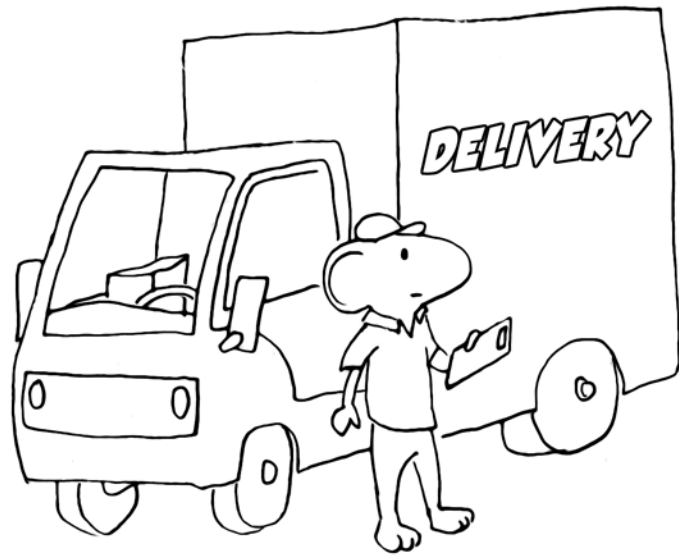
I'm gonna put these in the window and send one to Nana.



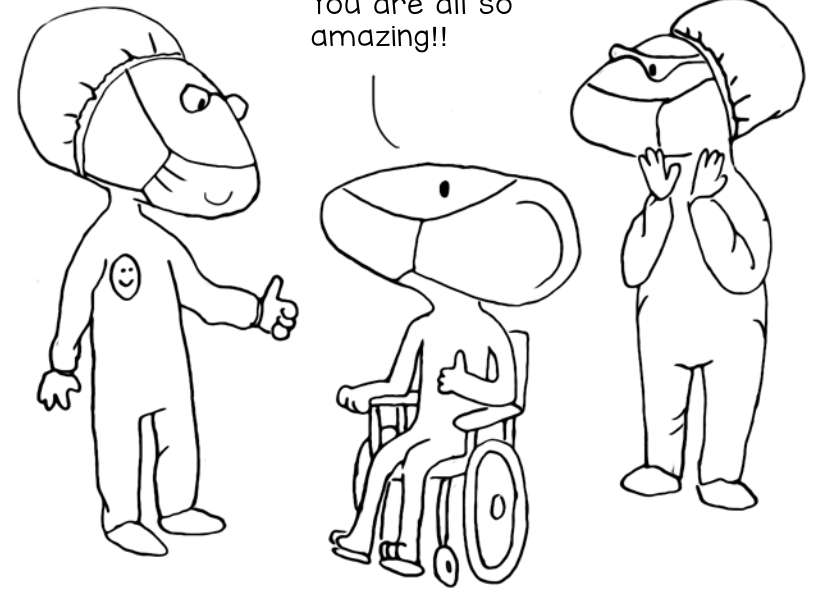
They helped others.



And they clapped and sang.
Even though they were in different places, they were together.



You are all so amazing!!



We're so glad we're getting regular food deliveries.



Thank you for working so hard to make sure we can shop safely and get food.

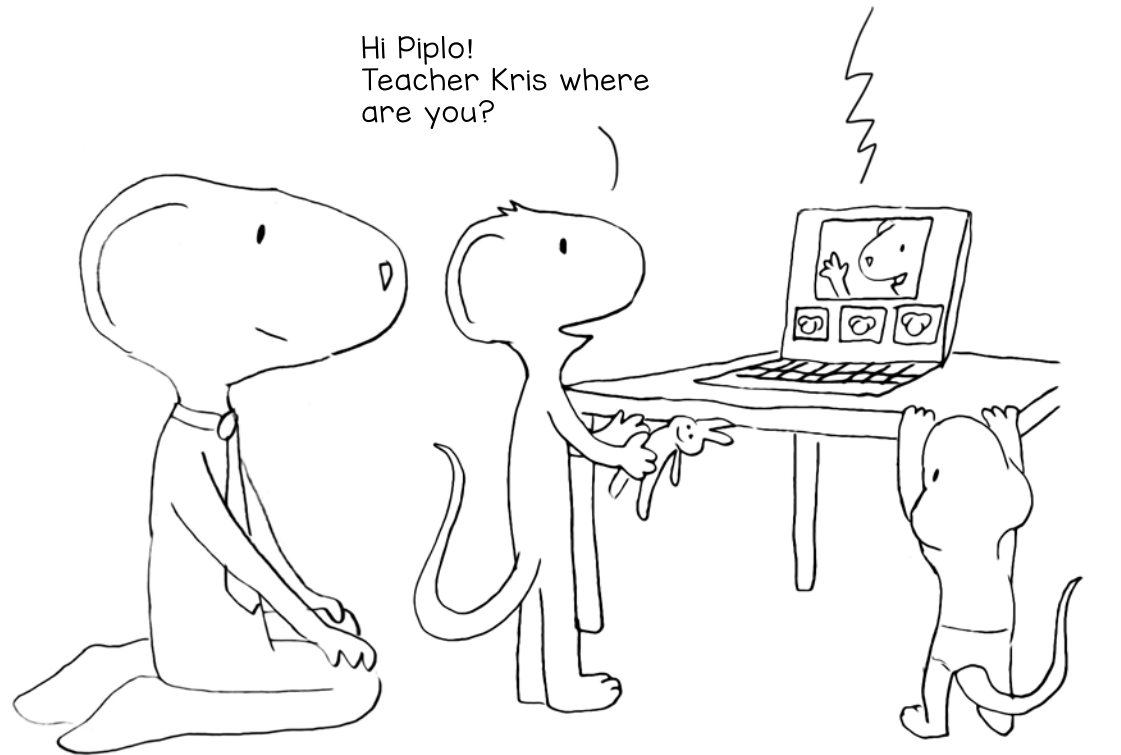
It would take some time. While they waited, they were grateful for everyone who helped those who were sick, for farmers who grew the food, for those who made sure stores had food and packages were delivered



Thanks for sharing your data. I think we're getting closer to having a vaccine.



Hi Piplo!
Teacher Kris where
are you?



... for teachers who helped them learn and scientists who worked hard to stop the spread of the illness, for leaders who tried to make sure that people were taken care of, for the many people who were kind and helpful.

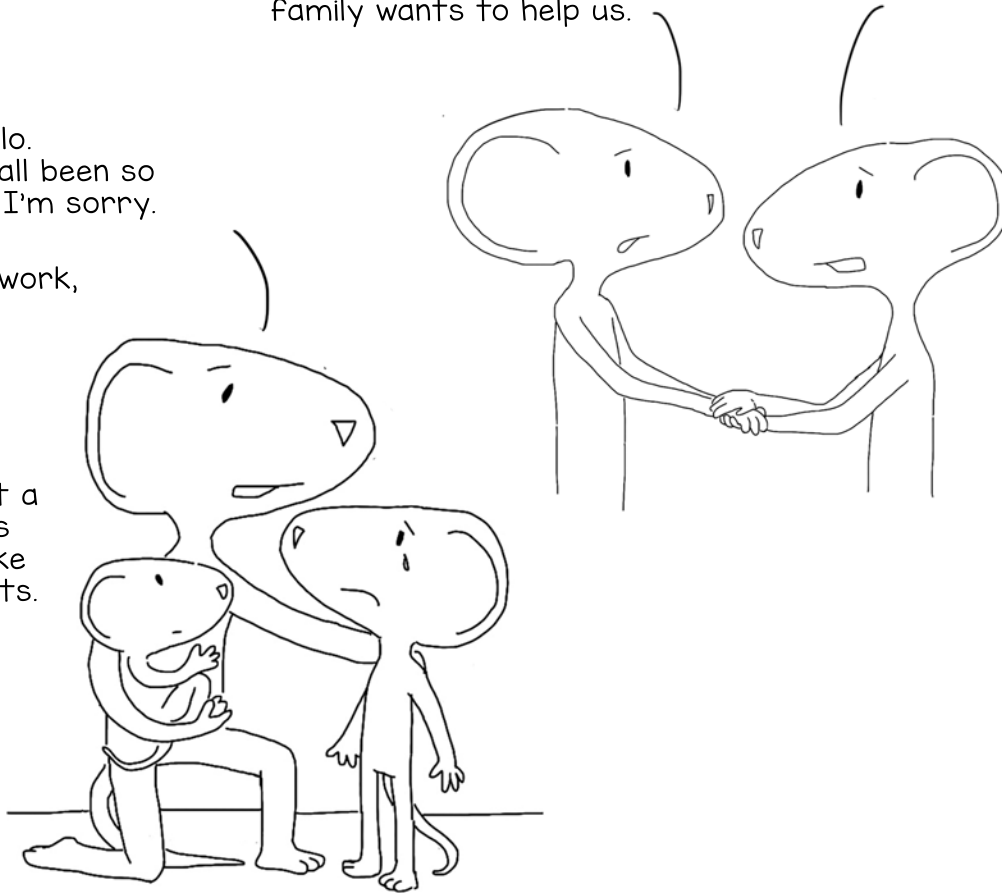
I know we don't like to ask for help, but Sam's family wants to help us.

I think you're right. We need help.

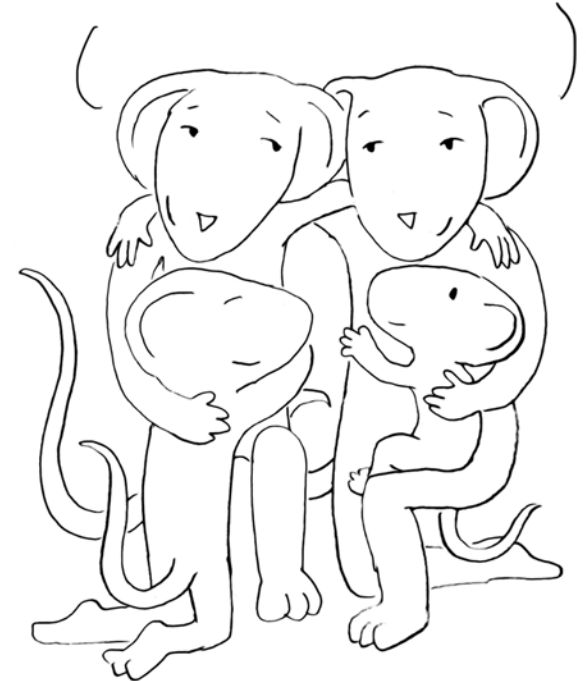
Oh, Piplo. We've all been so upset. I'm sorry.

We can't work, so we're worried about money.

We can't get a lot of things right now, like special treats.

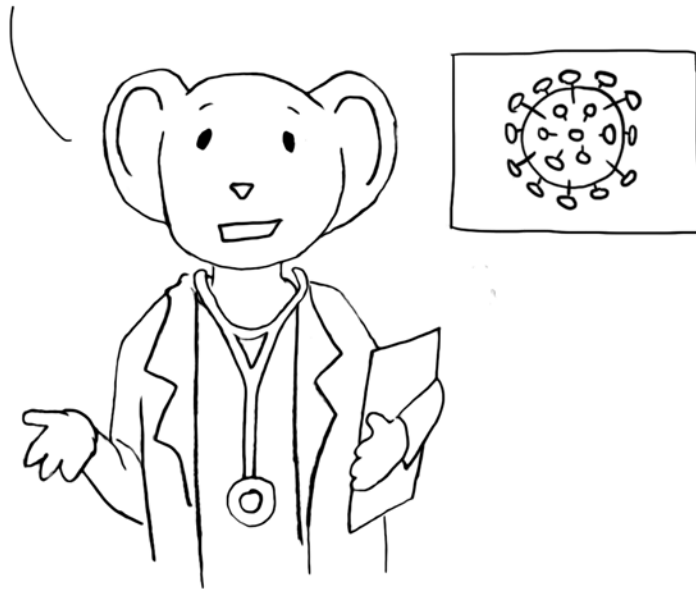


Things are hard right now, and we're here for you. We love you so much!!



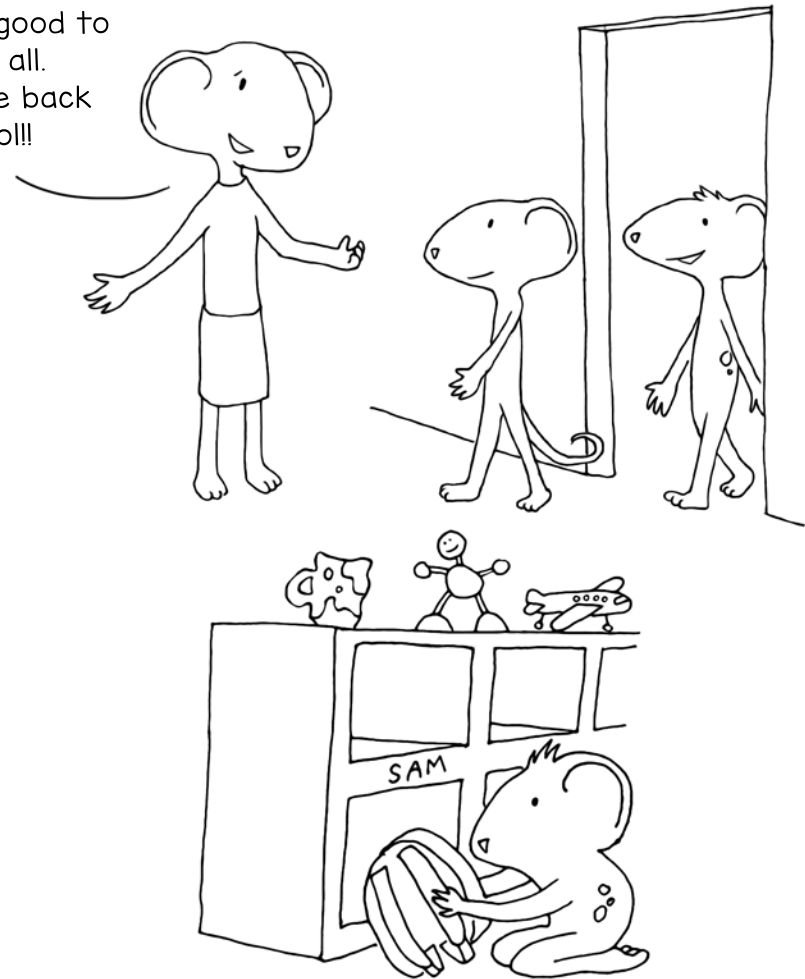
They were also grateful for the many people who stayed at home and couldn't work. Piplo's family was worried about their jobs and having enough money for rent and food, yet, they stayed in to keep Littletown safe, to make sure the hospitals didn't have too many sick people and the virus couldn't spread too fast. They were also heroes.

Thanks to a partnership of scientists from all around the world, we've made progress developing treatments for coronavirus.

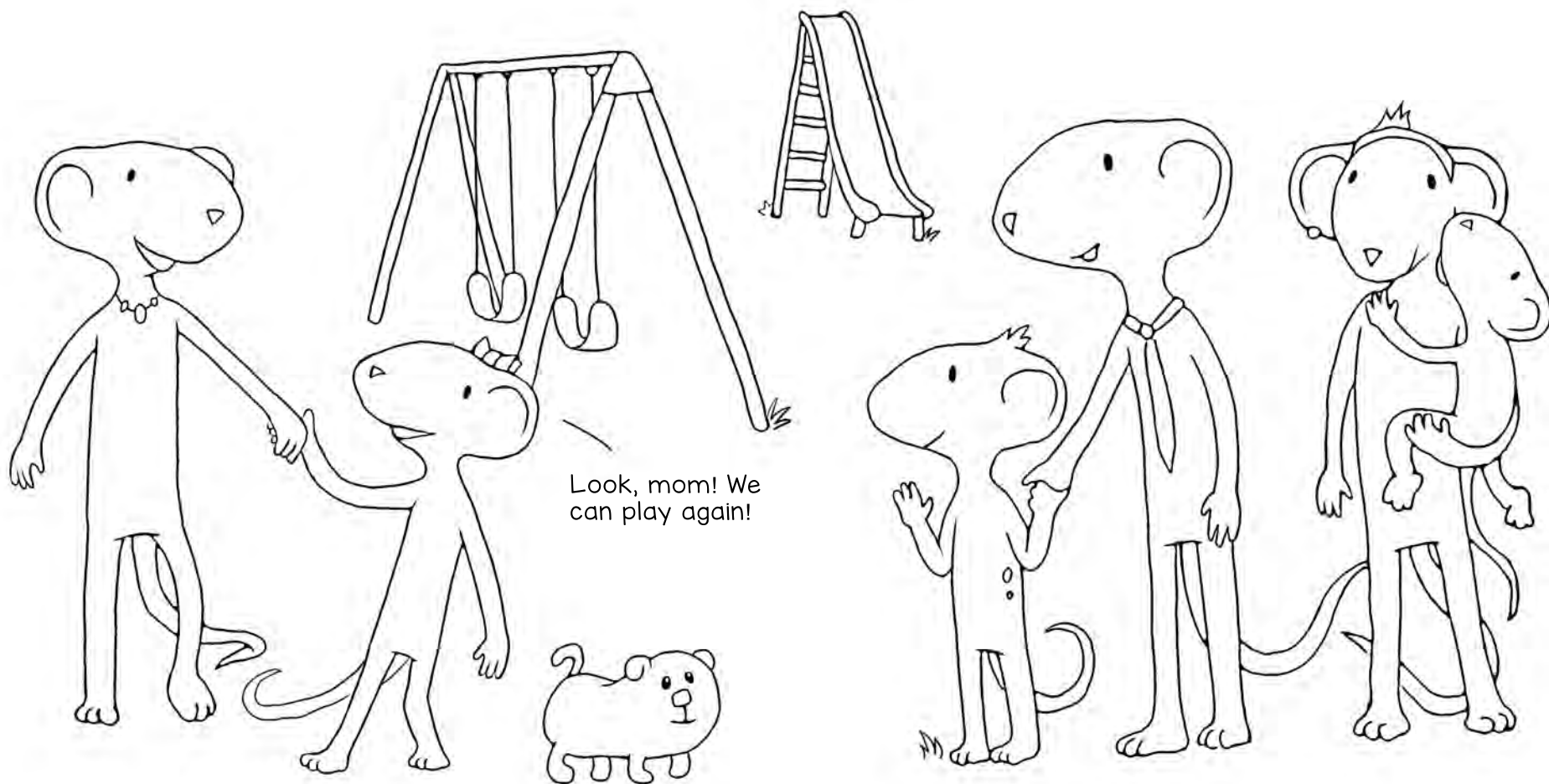


Little by little things started getting better. Scientists found ways to test for the virus. They developed treatments.

It's so good to see you all. Welcome back to school!!!

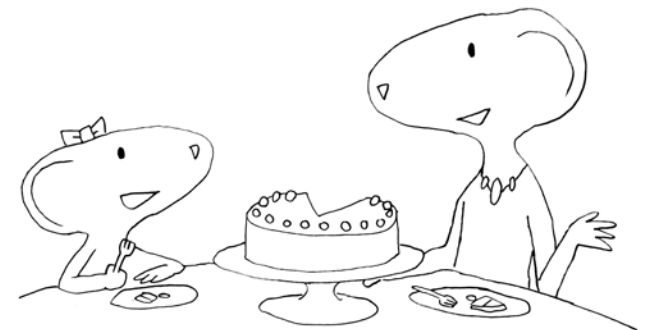


Kids went back to school. Parents went back to work. They followed the new rules for staying safe and worked together to fight the virus.

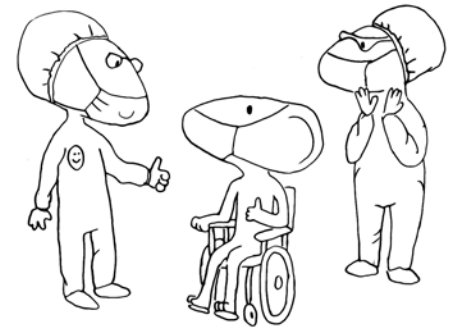
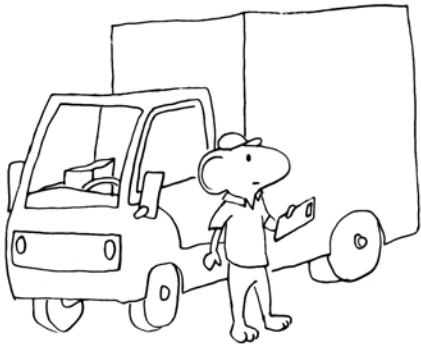


It would take a while. They would have times when they would need to listen carefully and follow the rules to keep everyone safe from the virus. There would be many changes, but eventually, they would all go out to play.

Good Things My Family Is Doing



Helpers We Are Grateful For



Fighting the Big Virus: Parent Guide

A companion to the story
*Fighting the Big Virus:
Trinka, Sam, and Littletown Work Together*



Parents' Guide

The purpose of the story is to help children cope with their fears and worries related to COVID-19. As the story shows, you can help your child by letting your child know they are loved and sharing what is being done to keep the family safe and well.

Ways to Use this Story

1. Review the book yourself so you know the content.
 - Decide if there are any pages you want to leave out.
 - The book describes many different experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Depending on your child's age, you may choose to limit exposure to experiences they are not aware of.
 - However, including all pages may help your child to have empathy for others.
2. Review the companion booklet *Trinka and Sam's Questions*
 - The booklet includes questions your child may have about the virus or changes in your community.
 - Look through the pages and decide the ones to use with your child.
 - You can read this booklet as a stand alone story or include it as part of this story (between page 6 & 7).
3. Read and talk about this book with your child.
 - Follow your child's lead.
 - Some children may want to stop and talk about what's on the page. Let them. This is how they will begin to share their experiences, how they feel, and what they remember.
 - Some children may get worried while reading the book and need to take a break. That's ok. You can say something like "It's good to take a break. We can look at it when you want to."
4. Use it as a coloring book.
 - Coloring is fun and relaxing, it lets children go at their own pace, and it gives them something to do.
 - You can add face masks (see the booklet for instructions).
 - Children can use different colors for different feelings. For example, when Trinka, Sam (or their parents) are angry, they might color the picture red. When they're sad, they might color the picture blue. When they're scared or worried, they might choose a color for fear and color those pages with that color. Doing this will help your child begin to think about different feelings.
- As children are coloring, they often begin to talk about what they are thinking.
- Some children may want to scribble on certain pages to show how angry they are or how much they didn't want this to happen. This is a good way to share feelings.
 - They might be mad at the virus and use a page from the booklet *Trinka and Sam's Questions* to show how mad they are at the virus.
 - They might be upset that the playground is closed or that people in the family have been angry and use those pages to share their feelings.
5. Use the story to talk about your family's experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The good things you are doing as a family
 - Good moments you are having as a family
 - Some of the challenges you are having
 - Ways you are supporting your community
 - Ways your community is supporting you
6. Stories are important to young children. They help them understand what is happening.
7. Stories can open doors to difficult but important conversations.
 - When you read the story to your child, they will know it's ok to talk about what is happening and ask questions.
 - As your child asks questions, give answers in simple words.
 - Many families are experiencing a lot of stress related to COVID-19 including economic stress, stress from remaining in close quarters, and from providing round the clock care for children while trying to work. If your child sees you get upset or angry, talk about it once you have had a chance to breathe and feel more calm. It is ok to admit that you were angry, scared, or upset. Help your child to see that you are doing better now, that you are strong, and that you will do all you can to keep your family safe. Also, remember to give yourself breaks during this stressful time.
 - By talking to you, your child may be able to share difficult feelings. When children can talk and don't have to act out

their feelings through their behavior, often their behavior improves.

- To help your child begin to talk, ask them what they are going through or what they remember and whether they ever feel the way that Trinka and Sam feel. Offer that you sometimes worry too and be open to answering questions.
- Sometimes when children are not comfortable or ready to talk about their own feelings, they express themselves by talking about how the characters in the story felt or behaved. If you have noticed similarities between Trinka and Sam's feelings and behaviors and those of your own children, you can direct the conversation to those parts of the story. For example:
 - Sam is mad at his dad because he doesn't understand why he can't go back to school. Young children often get upset with their parents when routines change. They can also misbehave which makes them feel bad about themselves. It is important that his parents understand that Sam misses his friends and teacher and also that the stress of being inside is building up in his body. Just like Sam's parents, it may help to identify ways your child can cope with this disappointment, including labeling feelings, exercising, doing breathing exercises, and being comforted by you.
 - During these challenging times, Trinka is more clingy. It is hard for young children to see so many changes to their home routine and to their community. When young children see adults worry, they worry. Even though Trinka is safe and healthy, she may worry about what could happen in the future, especially after she hears that people in her community are getting sick. Her mother's reassurance, providing a routine that includes special activities, clarifying the rules, and having extra patience helped Trinka feel better.
 - Even Cal, who is a toddler, may be affected by the changes in the family routine or how family members react to different situations. Fear and worry are catching, but fortunately, so are moments of calm and laughter.

8. If your children seem worried, or sad, talking about Sam, Trinka, Cal, or even Juju's feelings may help your children begin to talk about their own feelings.
9. Use the story to begin (or continue) talking to your children about viruses. Remember the booklet, *Trinka and Sam's Questions* can help guide this discussion.

Key Points to Remember

- We will be dealing with changes to our routines and uncertainties for a long time. Try to be patient with yourself and your family.
- Help your family create a new routine during the pandemic. Besides meal time and bedtime, your routine can include learning times as well as play time and time for family activities. Be sure to include calm and quiet time for each member of the family too.
- Young children often cannot tell us their understanding about what is happening. They show their worry through their behavior. Trinka wants to be picked up. Sam takes his brother's toy and slams the door. Some children get stomach aches.
- Children react in different ways. Trinka is worried, and she becomes clingy. Sam is worried, and he acts out.
- Although children may have to be separated from their friends for a time, help them to find connections in different ways. Trinka made a cheesecake for Sam. Sam drew a note on the sidewalk for Trinka.
- Young children can have extra fears over their parents' safety. Sam and Cal needed extra reassurance from their mom that she was protecting herself. Dad needed to clarify additional questions they had about why mom had to leave the home.
- If changes to your schedule occur, make sure you tell your children why and how they can keep in contact with you. Sam and Cal needed to know that their mom might have to stay away from the house, but they could video chat with her.
- In the story, the parents are upset and frustrated by their children's behavior, but they try to understand why their children are behaving this way.
- The parents also got angry with each other, which increased their children's worry. Find ways to give each other space and,

if possible, problem-solve ways to solve conflicts outside of your children's presence.

- Remember, children are always learning, not just their ABC's but about feelings and relationships. When they get upset or when they see us get upset, they are learning about anger. What things make us angry? What do we do when we are angry? How do we repair relationships after moments of anger? Think about what you would like them to learn about anger. Sometimes as parents we help our children to learn things that are different from what we may have learned when we were younger.
- Even when children are scared, angry, or sad, it is not ok for them to behave aggressively – setting limits for your children will help them feel safe.
- Young children ask the same questions over and over. This is not because they forget what you told them but because this is their way of learning about what is happening and how to make sense of it. They need you to answer the same questions over and over as patiently and lovingly as possible.
- Children will miss developmental milestones during these uncertain times (e.g. graduations, incomplete sport seasons, birthday parties canceled). Acknowledge your children's disappointments, problem-solve if there are ways to honor the missed opportunity later or in a different way. For Trinkka's birthday, her family wished her happy birthday by video and Sam from his window, but she still had her favorite cake.
- Discuss with your children different ways your community is beginning to reopen. Talk about when schools reopen, when they can play on the playgrounds, or when they can have playdates again. You children may have additional questions about safety during each of these steps. Make sure you help them understand why these activities are now safe to do.
- Help your children know about the helpers in the community and their different roles. Thanking these individuals can inspire children to want to help others in the future. Also thank your children for ways they helped others.

Thinking About Your Child

- Has your child acted differently since the pandemic?
- What makes your child worried?

- How do you know when your child is worried?
- How does your child tend to behave when stressed or worried?
- What can you and your child do together that will help your child feel better?

Ways You Can Help Your Children

- Help your children talk with you about what is happening. Correct any inaccurate information or misunderstandings they may have.
- Help your children identify feelings they may be having, and let them know it's ok to feel that way. The Trinkka and Sam poster may help. You can download a free copy from the website: <https://piploproductions.com>.
- Help your children feel safe. Focus on psychological safety (how your children feel) and actual physical safety (how many people are sick in your community, how do I prevent my family from getting sick). Discuss what your family is doing to keep everyone well (e.g., washing hands, wiping down the groceries, wearing masks, staying home).
- Young children feel safe when you hold them.
- Children feel safe when they have predictable routines (regular meals, schedules, and consistent rules) and know what is going to happen next.
- Limit your children's exposure to COVID-19 media coverage.
- Distract your children with different activities to keep them busy, to help get their energy out, and to help them calm.
- Help them stay connected with extended relatives, friends, teachers, and neighbors.
- If you can, help them do something for someone in need (e.g., send a card, get groceries, bake cookies). Helping others will help them feel better.

Ways You Can Help Yourself

- Adults are dealing with many stressors right now - trying to educate and entertain children, juggling your own jobs, worrying about finances, and keeping everyone safe. You may be scared, and you may feel sad, angry, or guilty about all that is happening.

- Take several slow breaths to calm yourself. Inhale quietly and exhale slowly (twice as long as the inhale).
- Make sure you find ways each day to care for yourself. Practice good rest/sleep, healthy eating, and exercise. What helps you feel calm? Brings you joy? Find one practical activity to do each day.
- Find ways to connect with friends, family, and co-workers. It helps to connect with others in the same situation and learn ways they are addressing problems.
- Allow yourself to feel sadness and grief.
- For large concerns (e.g., unemployment), try to consider small steps to begin to deal with this problem. For example, filing for unemployment, researching community food programs, contacting your boss to determine the feasibility of getting rehired).
- Stay informed but limit COVID-19 media coverage.
- Be patient with yourself as you might not be the best parent right now, the most efficient, or get everything done on your list.

Additional Resources

- [NCTSN.org](https://www.nctsn.org/): Information about children, disasters, public health emergencies, and trauma.
- [Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope with the Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) (English/Spanish).
- [NCTSN Simple Activities for Families during COVID-19](#)
- [Helping Children with Traumatic Separation or Traumatic Grief related to COVID-19](#)
- [Coping in Hard Times: Fact Sheet for Parents](#)
- [Piploproductions.com](https://www.piploproductions.com/): Stories to help families heal including *Once I Was Very Very Scared, You Weren't With Me* (for families who have experienced difficult separations, and *Holdin Pott*, to help families talk about feelings.
- Sesame Street: [Caring for Each Other](#) and [Sesame Street in Communities](#) has tips, activities, and other tools to help the whole family with the uncertainties of health emergencies (English/Spanish).
- Zero to Three: [Tips for Families: Coronavirus](#) has information for families with young children.

- [Zero to Thrive](#): COVID-19 resources and information for families and professionals.
- [My COVID-19 Time Capsule](#) -an activity book.
- [PBS Kids](#): Has creative fun activities for kids.
- Download a wellness app (e.g., Headspace, Calm, Simple Habit).

Our Team



Chandra Ghosh Ippen, Ph.D. is a children's book author and the Associate Director of the [Child Trauma Research Program](#) at the University of California, San Francisco where she directs the dissemination and implementation of [Child-Parent Psychotherapy](#), an evidence-based treatment for young children and families who have experienced trauma. She has a lifetime mission to bake 1000 pies and a pie in all 50 states.



Erich Ippen, M.S. is Piplo Productions' resident artist. As a boy, he was always interested in cartoons and character design. In his professional career, he works as a visual effects artist at Lucas Film. He is also a singer, songwriter, music producer, and founding member of the San Francisco band, District 8.



Melissa Brymer, Ph.D., Psy.D. is the Director of the Terrorism and Disaster Program for the UCLA/Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress. She supports children, families, and communities impacted by various types of disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Bentley and Bailey also provide lots of support and cuddles.