

My friend Sarah and I

My name is Billy, and I live with my family in a small town near Melbourne in Australia.

My family loves me.

I know this, because all families love each other.

They've got to.....
haven't they?



My best friend Sarah lives next door to us,
and Sarah's family love her too.



The first time I visited Sarah, I realised that
our families are completely different.



Sarah's mum and dad are really funny.

They tell jokes
and play games
with Sarah and
her little brother.



My mum and dad love me, but sometimes they're
really busy doing other things.



Sarah's parents hardly ever shout at each other.

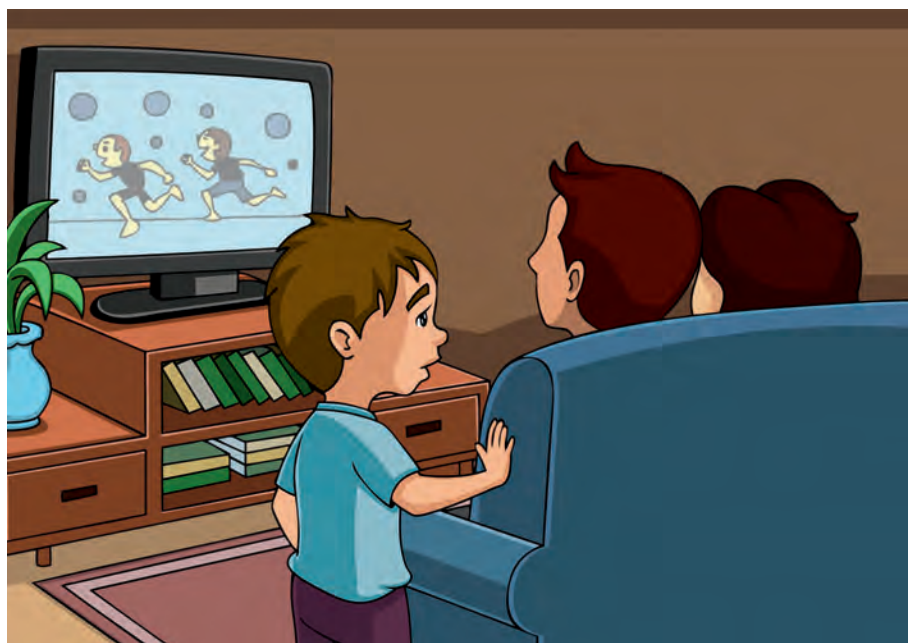
My mum and dad shout a lot, and sometimes my dad hits my mum..... but he says sorry.



Sarah plays basketball at the weekends; her mum and dad go to watch.



I don't really play any sports; dad prefers to watch sports on the TV.



There are lots of rules at Sarah's house –

bedtimes;

mealtimes;

what she can

watch on TV;

when she can

play computer

games;

and not

swearing.....



I don't think we have rules

like those at our house.





Sarah's dad cooks great food and Sarah tells me that she has some favourite meals.

Sometimes my mum and dad forget to cook dinner for us. But they are really busy doing other things, so that's OK.



I like spending time at Sarah's house. It isn't boring.

People talk to each other, and do things together.



Sarah told me what used to happen in her house
when she was really young.



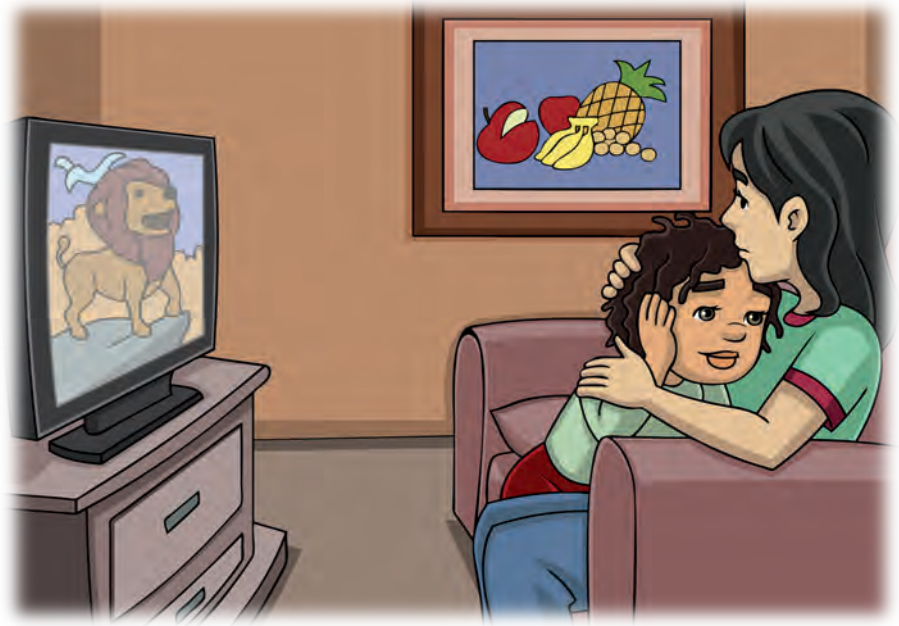
When Sarah's mum and dad used to bounce her
up and down on their knee, and sing songs to her
- I was left on my own in my house.





When Sarah was getting tucked into bed at night, her mum would kiss her on the head and say she loved her – I would just fall asleep in front of the TV.





When Sarah watched The Lion King with her parents and cried at the sad bits, her parents helped her to understand about her feelings, and that feelings are OK

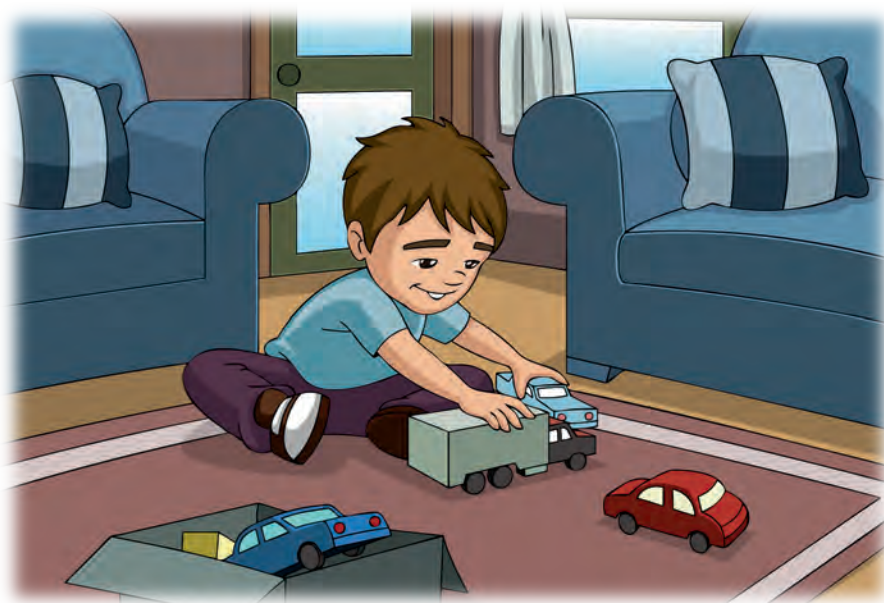
- I haven't seen The Lion King.





When Sarah invited friends to her house to play with her, she learnt lots of rules about sharing games, and taking turns

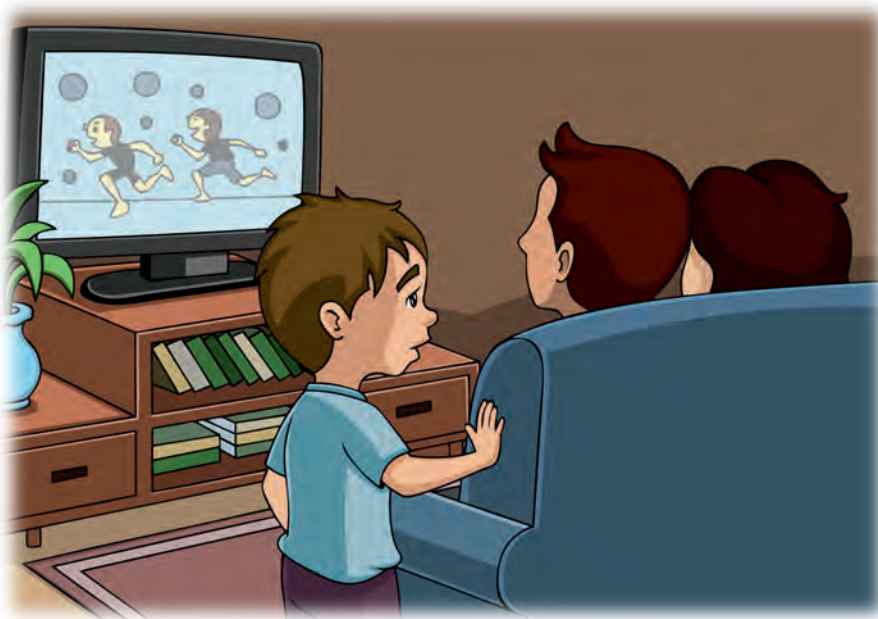
- I was playing on my own at home.





When Sarah went out to play in the front garden,
her dad came out and watched her. Sarah's dad
was really interested in what she was doing.

- I don't play outside much.





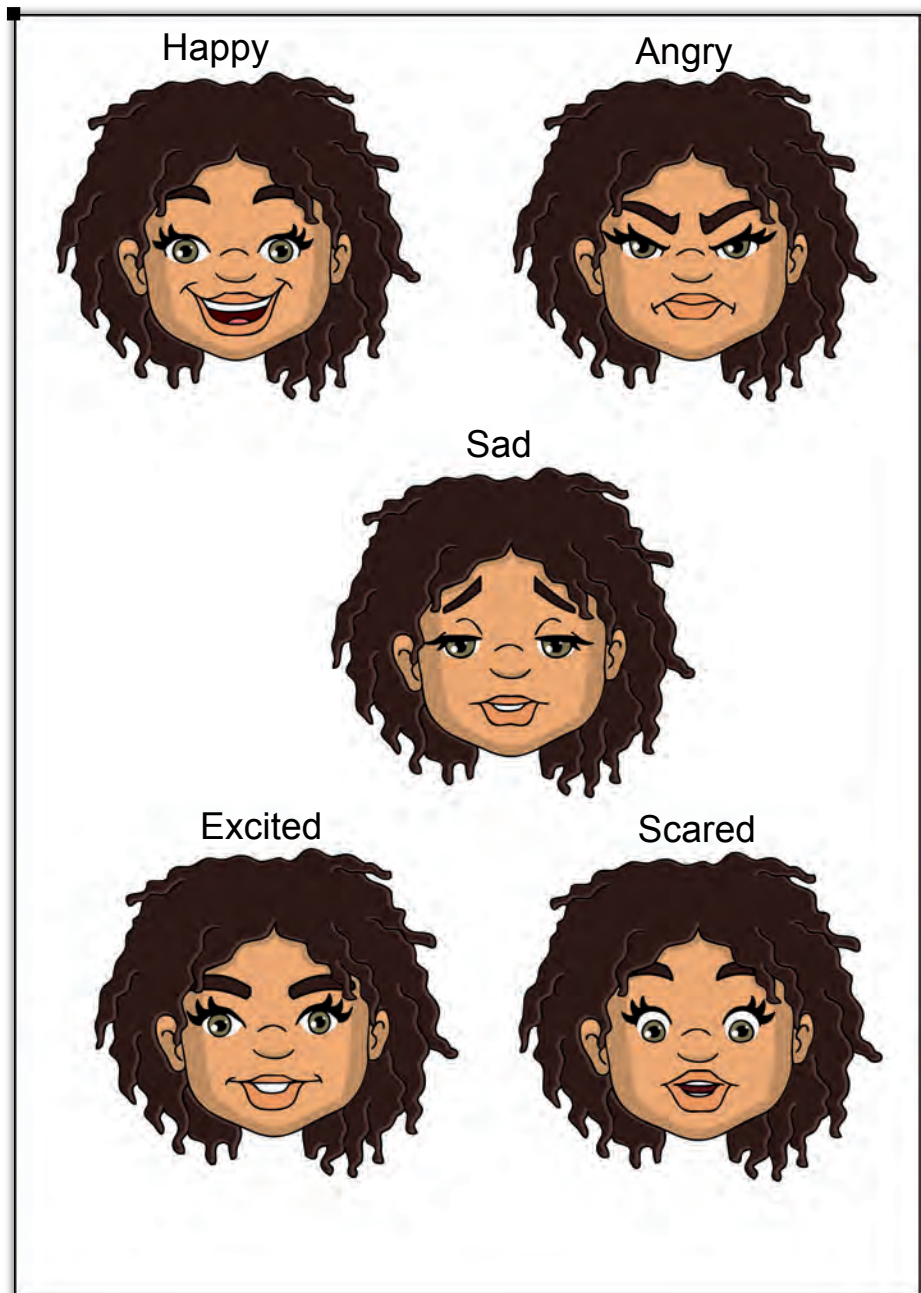
When Sarah fell over when she was playing, her mum or dad would make sure she was OK, and give her a hug
- mum and dad shout at me if I cry.



Sarah used to talk about things that I didn't really understand.

She talked about feeling excited, sad, angry, happy, scared, and sometimes she talked about feeling loved.

Sarah is really clever.



I know those words, but those feelings all feel the same for me – just a **funny feeling in my tummy.**