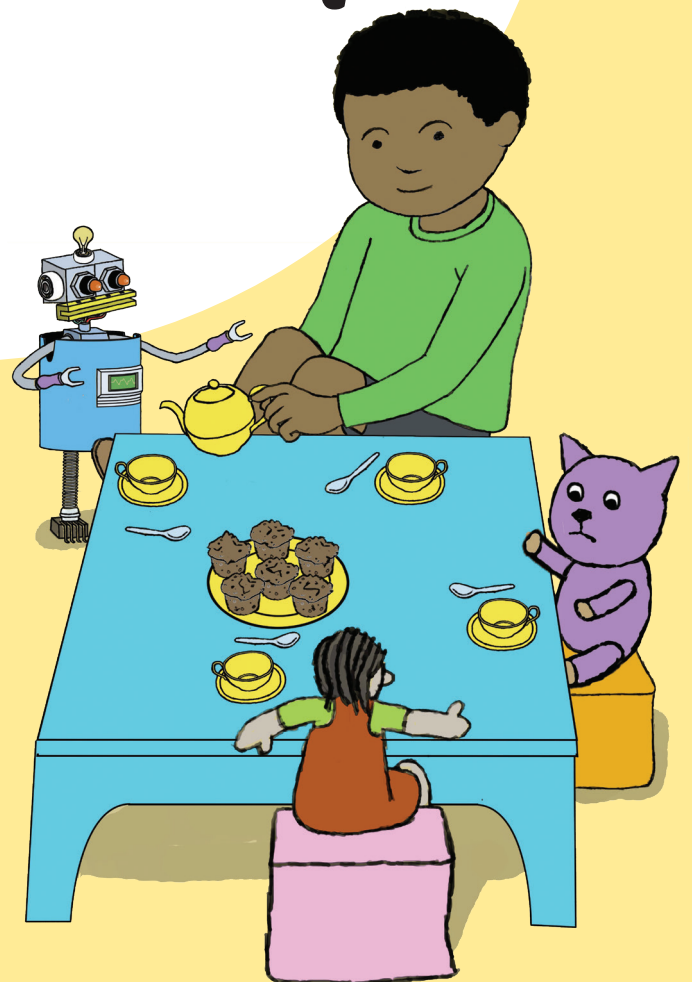




When I grow up



Making stories fun!

Tips for reading books with young children

Children aged 3–5 years will enjoy this story.

National Curriculum Framework Birth to 4 years (NCF) levels:
Advancing further and Towards Grade R

★ **Children love stories! They build important language skills when we read with them, especially when it is fun.** Involve the children when you read, use languages that they know, and talk about the stories together. Here are ideas to make storytime fun for the children ... and for you!

📖 **Get ready:** Include time for a story every day. You can read the same book many times! Choose a story, or let the children choose a favourite. Sit together and hold the book so that everyone can see the pictures.

📖 **Before** you read, introduce the story with the title. Show the front cover and read the story description on the back. Show the first few pages. Ask: What do you see? What jobs do the people you know do?

📖 **During** the story, read with expression and use different voices to keep the children interested. Remember to show the pictures. Ask: How would it feel to be a chef, singer, farmer, pilot, vet, scientist and why?

📖 **After** the story, discuss the book. Ask: What did you like about the story? Extend the learning with play-based activities:

Expression: Each child can say which of the jobs in the book they like most or would want to do, and why.

Pretend play: Make mud cakes outside and have a “tea party”. Then get the children to do a sing-and-dance show (alone or in small groups). Clap for each performance.

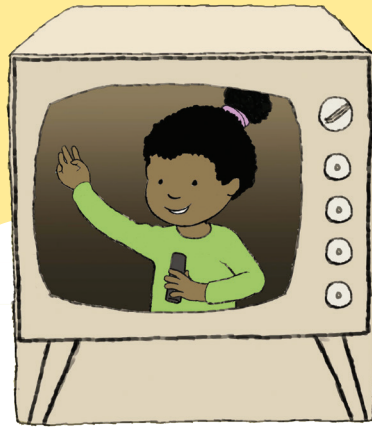
✅ **Let the children use the books.** Children need time to discover the books for themselves. Keep the books in a reading corner. Make it comfortable with a carpet and cushions. Encourage children to look at the books during free-play time.

Sharing books supports the **three themes of the NCF**: (1) I am a competent person, (2) My learning and development is important, and (3) I need strong connections with adults.

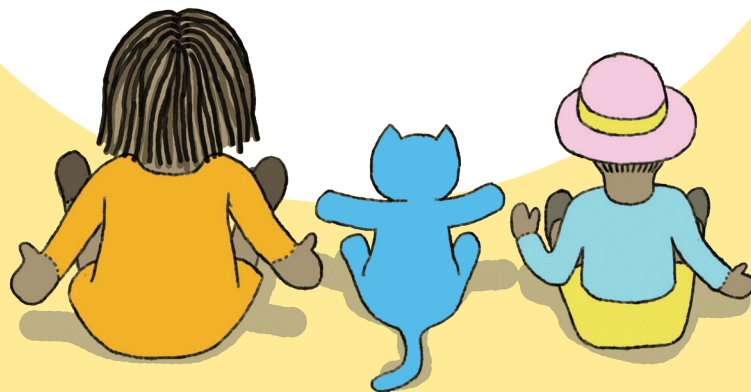
Books and reading build children’s skills in **all six of the Early Learning and Development Areas (ELDAs)**: (1) Well-being, (2) Identity and belonging, (3) Communication, (4) Exploring mathematics, (5) Creativity, and (6) Knowledge and understanding of the world.

This story aligns with early learning themes:

People who help us
All about me
STEAM



When I
grow up



I am a chef. I cook delicious food.



Would you like to taste
the meal I've made?

When I grow up, I want to be a chef too.



Look! I've made some delicious mud cakes
for my friends. Would you like to try one?

I am a famous singer. I sing songs and dance on TV.



Would you like to watch my show?

When I grow up, I want to be a singer too.



Look! I've made a TV and my toy friends are watching me sing and dance. Would you like to sing along with me?

I am a farmer. I grow vegetables
to sell to supermarkets.



Would you like to buy some
of my pumpkins and mielies?

When I grow up, I want to be a farmer too.



Look! I am planting some carrot seeds.
Then I will water them every day. Would you
like to help me look after my plants?

I am a pilot. I fly aeroplanes
from one city to another.



Would you like to join me?

When I grow up, I want to be a pilot too.



Look! I made an aeroplane from
a cardboard box. Would you like
to fly around the world with me?

I am a vet. I look after sick animals.



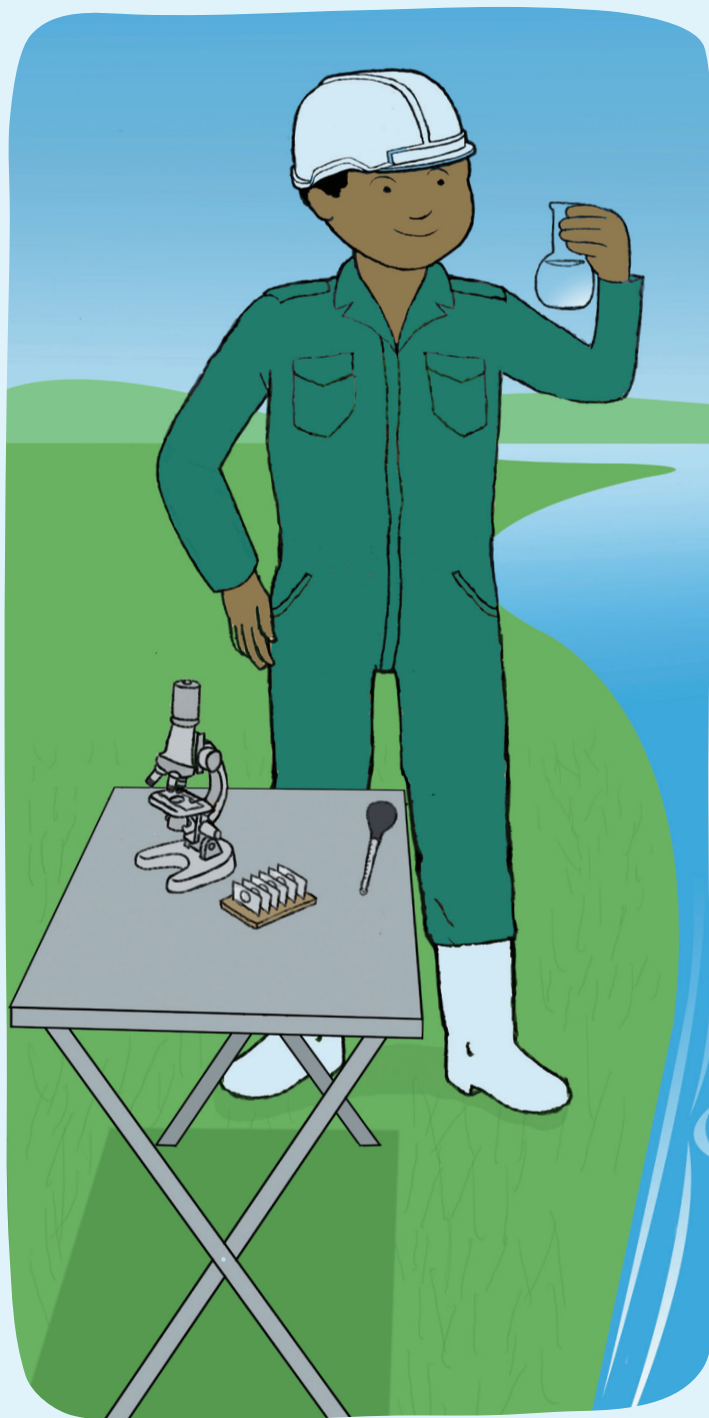
Would you like me to help your animals if they get sick?

When I grow up, I want to be a vet too.



Look! I help at a shelter that cares for animals that don't have homes. Would you like to come and help the animals too?

I am a scientist who looks after our rivers. I test the river water to make sure it is clean.



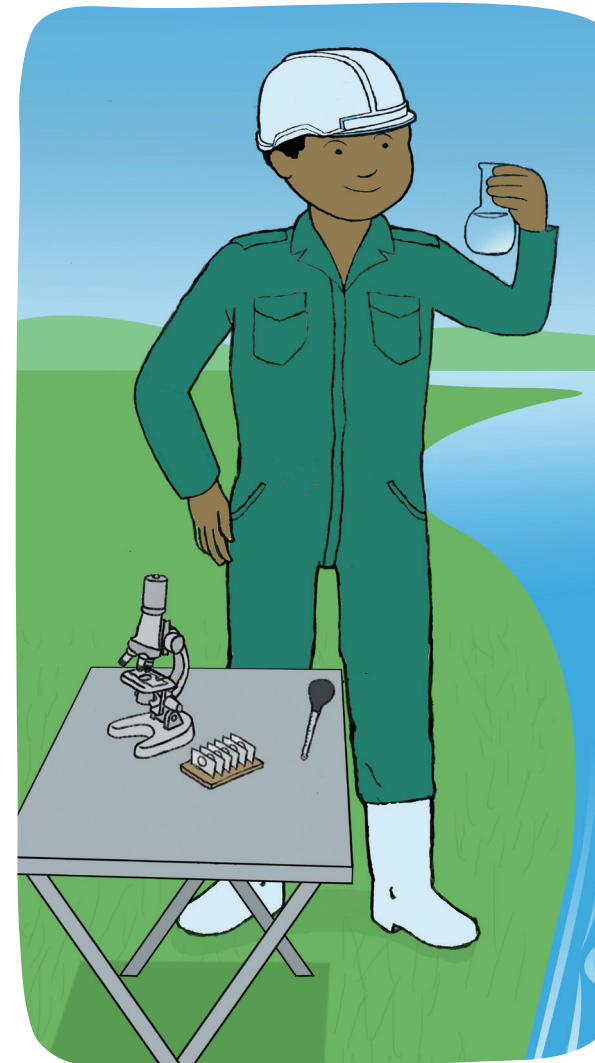
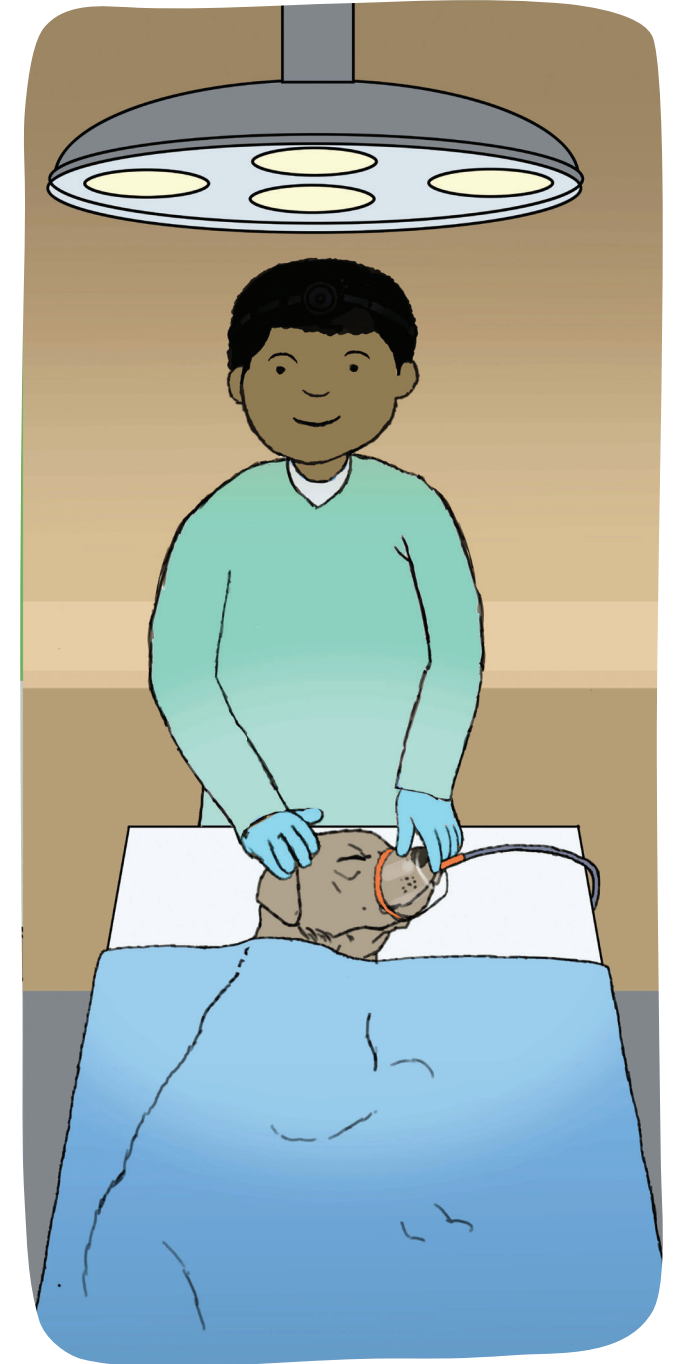
Would you like to help me check the water?

When I grow up, I want to be a scientist too.



Look! I try to keep our park clean by putting litter in the recycling bins. Would you like to help me keep our world clean?

So many
things to be
and do when
you grow up.



What will
you choose?

When I grow up

Story development by Book Dash
with Shelley O'Carroll and Arabella Koopman
Design by Magenta Media
Proofreading by Ilse von Zeuner

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This storybook was developed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Book Dash to increase access to quality reading materials and encourage reading for joy with children from birth to five years.

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The original story "A community of helpers" was first published in *Big Book 2: Early Learning and Development from the Start (NCF-LTSM for 4- to 5-year-old children)*, DBE and UNICEF, 2024.

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Illustrations by Roland Metcalfe

Get more books

You can find this book, as well as other books in the *Stories for Joy* series along with materials to support emergent literacy and the National Curriculum Framework for Children from Birth to Four, at www.ecdinfohub.org.



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Department of Basic Education
222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002
Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001

Telephone: 012 357 3000

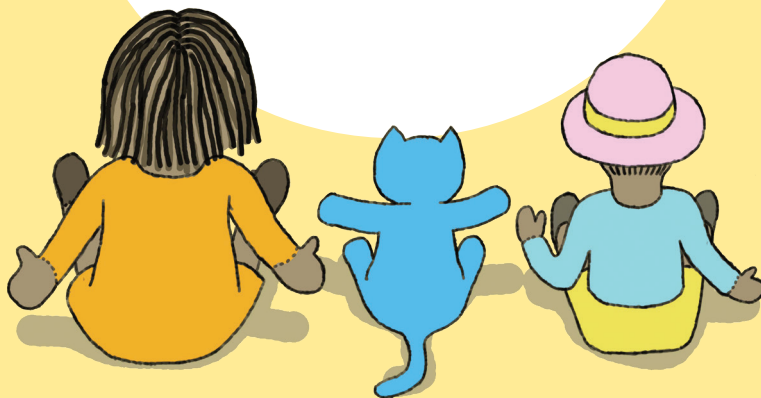
Fax: 012 323 0601

Email: ecd@dbe.gov.za

Website: www.education.gov.za



So many things to be and
do when you grow up.
What will *you* choose?



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