



Zandi's
first day

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 think this story could be about?

📖 **During** the story, read with expression and use different voices to keep the children interested. Remember to show the pictures. Ask: How do you think Zandi is feeling here?

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

Sharing circle: Ask the children to share a memory from a day at school – how they felt and what their favourite part of the day was.

Drawing: Be like Zandi! Get the children to draw a picture of themselves playing with all their friends.

✅ **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:

Feelings and emotions
My learning environment
People who help us

Zandi's first day





Tomorrow is Zandi's first day
at a new preschool.
She feels worried:

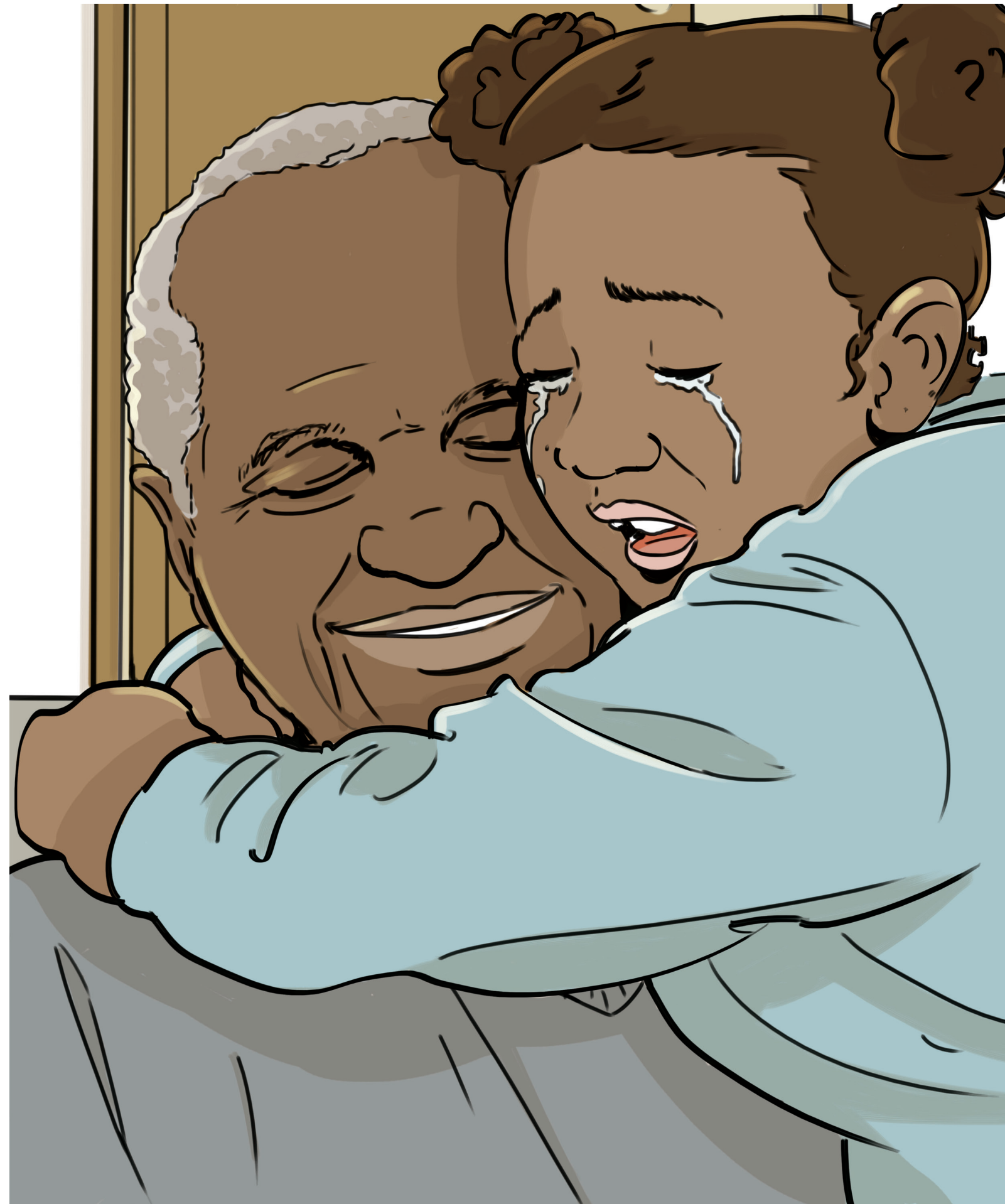
Will my teacher be kind?

Who will I play with?

What will we do?

The next morning, Grandpa takes Zandi to school. When it is time for him to leave, Zandi holds onto him tightly.

“Don’t be scared, my big girl,” says Grandpa gently. “Your teacher will look after you and there will be lots of other children to play with. You are going to have so much fun! I’ll be here waiting for you at the end of the day.”





Zandi tries hard to be brave. As Grandpa waves goodbye, she sees her new teacher waiting for her at the classroom door.

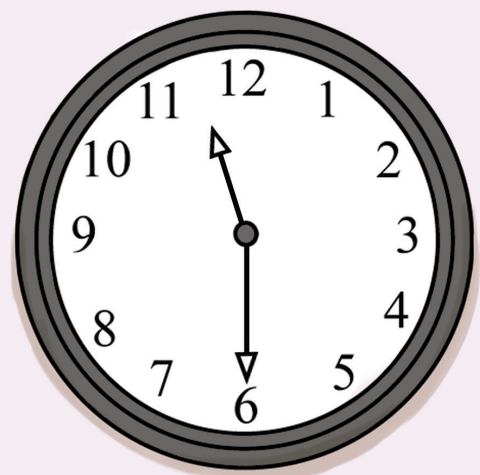
“Hello, Zandi,” says her teacher kindly. “Let’s go and meet the other children.”

Zandi feels a bit better now.

Outside in the playground,
Zandi makes a new friend,
Amaal. They race up and
down the slide together.
It is so much fun.

Zandi doesn't feel scared
anymore.





COLOURS



Of all the fun things to do at school, Zandi enjoys drawing the most.

I'll draw a picture of me playing with Amaal, she decides.

When she has finished her picture, she folds it carefully and puts it in her bag.



A little later, it is time to go home. Grandpa is waiting for Zandi, just like he promised.

“Hello, my big girl!” smiles Grandpa.

“Grandpa, Grandpa, I had the *best* time!” says Zandi. “And guess what? I drew a picture of my new friend so you can see what Amaal looks like.”





Zandi holds Grandpa's hand as they walk home. She tells him about everything she did at school.

"Do you think you want to go to school again tomorrow?" asks Grandpa.

Zandi thinks for a bit and then says,

"Yes, please!"

Zandi's first day

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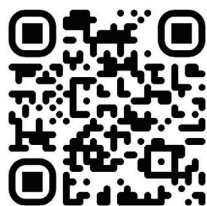
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You can find this book, as well as other books in the *Stories for Joy* series along with materials to support emergent literacy and the National Curriculum Framework for Children from Birth to Four, at www.ecdinfohub.org.



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Zandi feels anxious
about starting a new
school and is very sad to
leave her grandpa. In the
end, the day turns out
better than expected.



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