

Eli and the Big Mess



About Choo Choo Train

Choo Choo Train is a series of stories and activities aiming to inculcate good values in five and six-year-old children. Children will learn eight values through 16 stories and activities. The stories will feature Eli the elephant and his friends as they learn about each value.

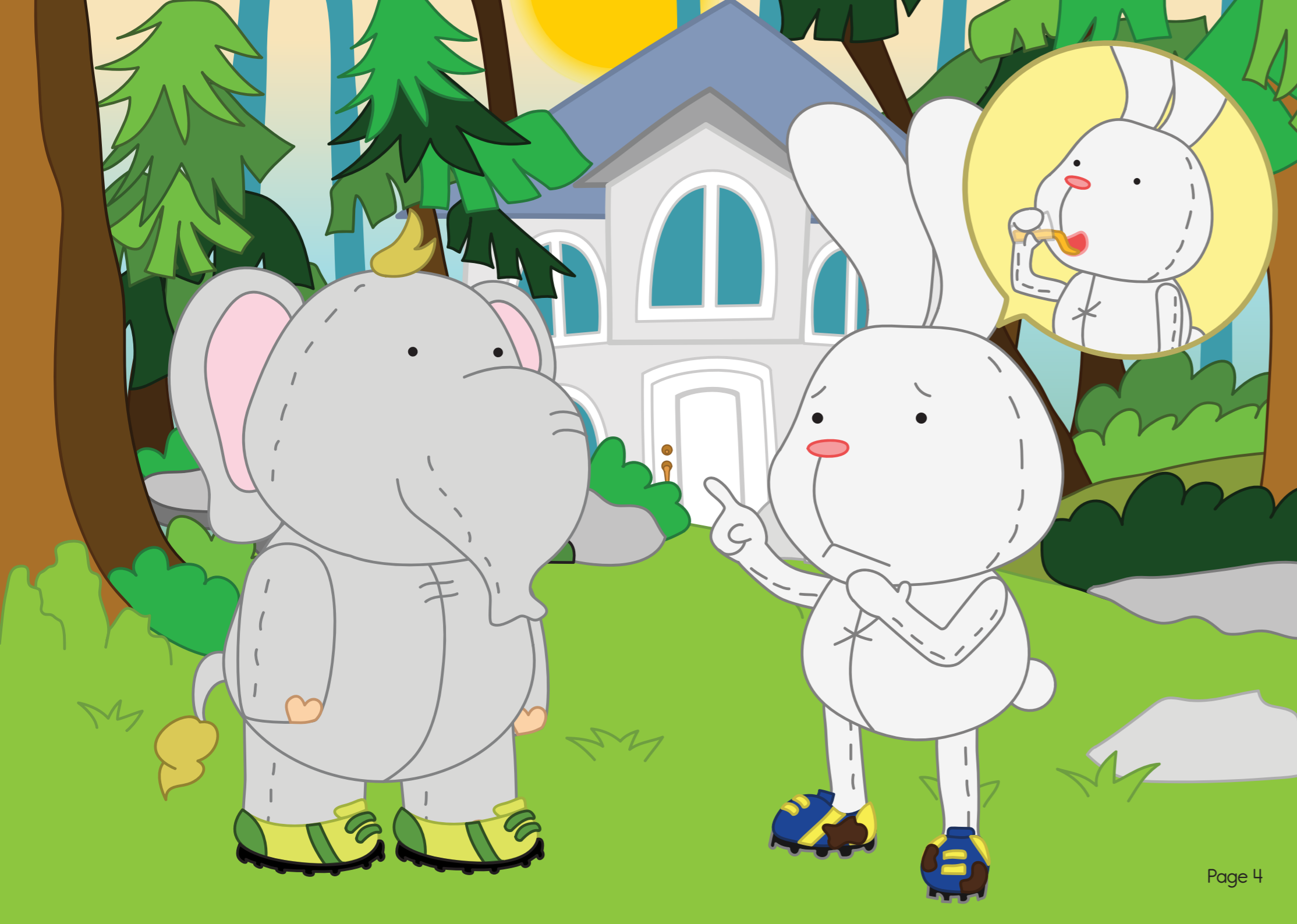
If you are a parent or an educator, there are guided questions at the end of the story that you may ask the children to build their empathy and perspective-taking skills.

Recommended activities are also included for a wholesome experience in learning these values!

About this story

In this story, we will explore the value of responsibility. Eli and his friends were playing soccer together. Ray felt thirsty and went to the house to get a drink. However, Ray left a big mess in the hall and the kitchen. Will Ray show responsibility? Read on to find out more.





It was a hot and sunny day. Eli and his friends were playing soccer outside Eli's house.

"I am thirsty. Can I go and get a drink in your house, Eli?" Ray asked.

"Yes, you can, Ray," Eli replied.

Ray walked into Eli's house with his muddy soccer boots.

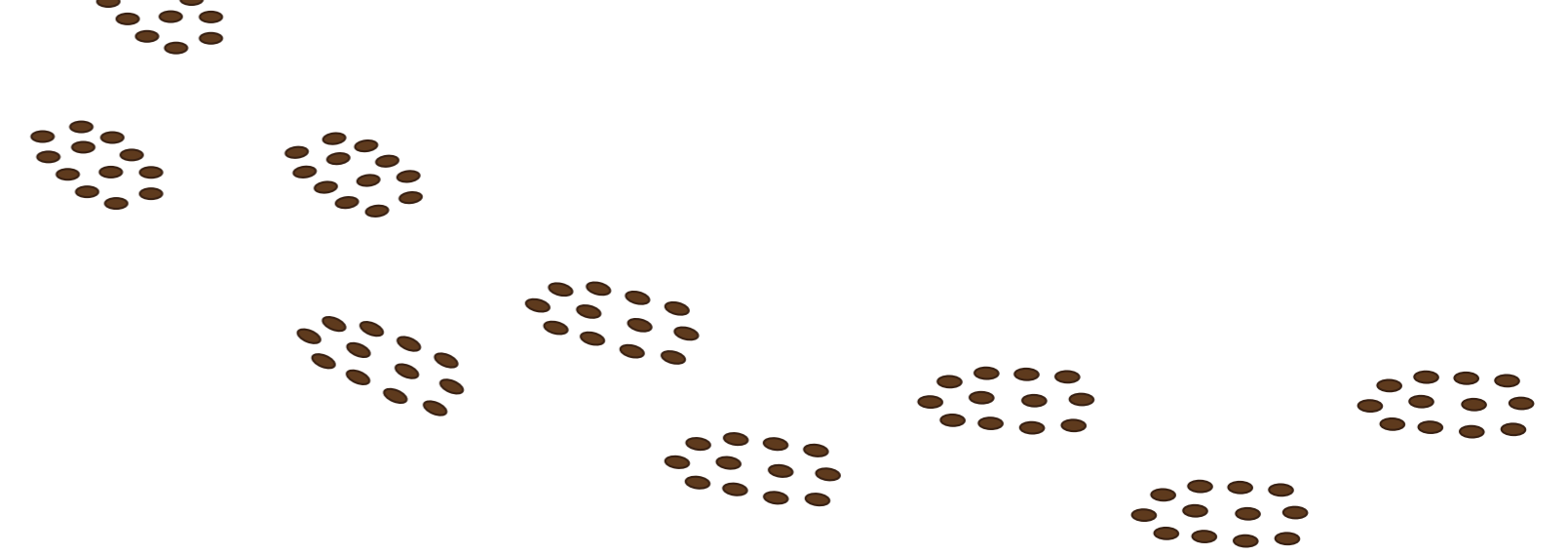


He left muddy shoe prints everywhere! "What a mess, but I don't care!" Ray said.

He walked to the kitchen to pour himself a glass of orange juice. While pouring, he spilled some juice on the table top and accidentally knocked over another glass.

There was juice everywhere!

"What a mess, but I don't care!" Ray said as he walked out to join his friends to play.





After a while, Eli and his friends got tired and decided to go back to Eli's house to rest.

Eli, Bob and Felix took off their muddy soccer boots and walked into the house.

"Look! There are muddy shoe prints all over the floor!" Bob exclaimed.

"You wore your boots into the house?" Eli looked at Ray angrily.



“Yes. What’s wrong?” Ray asked.

“You should have taken off your boots outside. Now, the floor is so dirty, Ray!” Felix said.

“It’s Eli’s house, not mine. I don’t care! He can clean the floor later,” Ray said.



“That is not responsible, Ray!” Bob said.

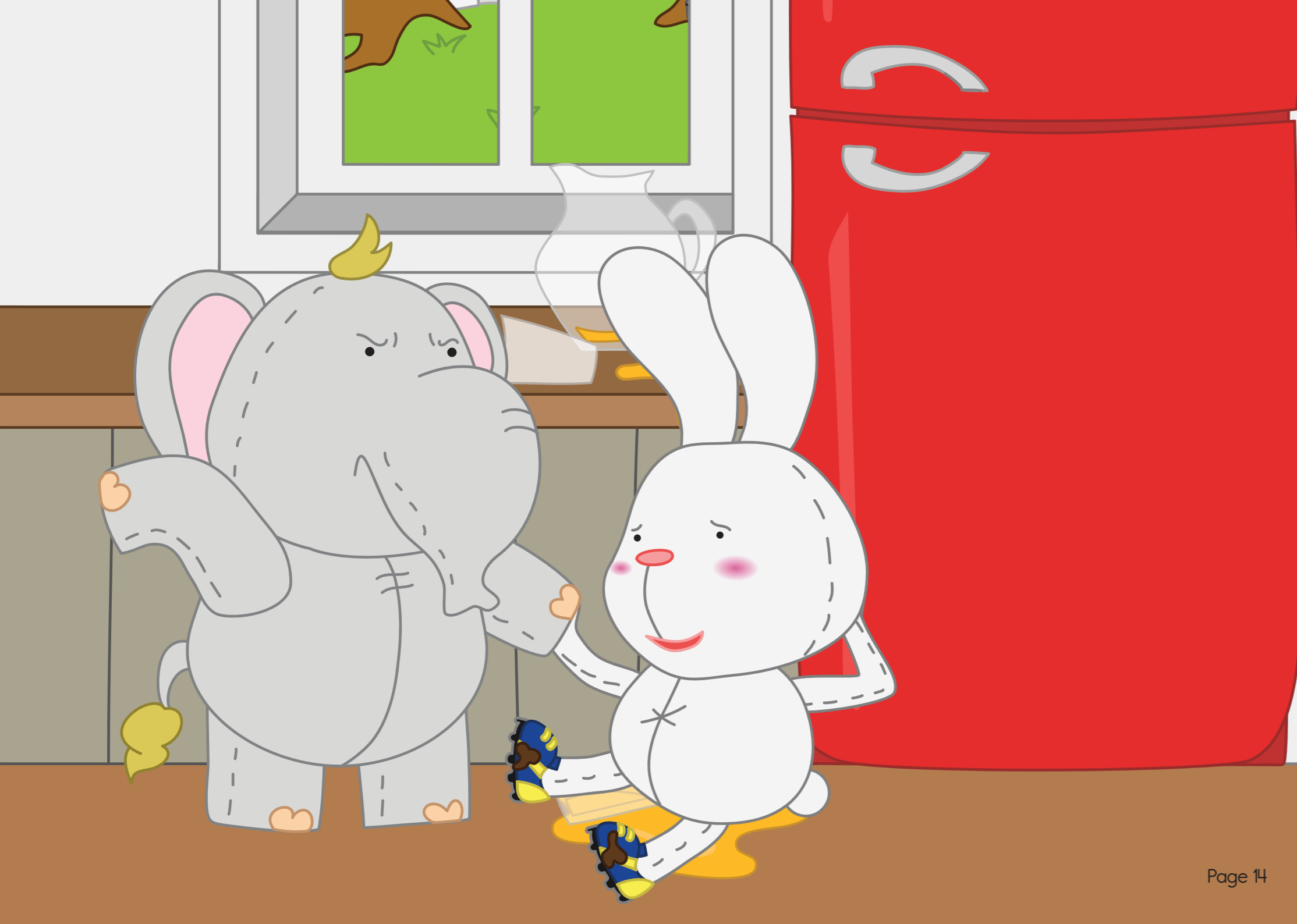
“But this is Eli’s house. I don’t have to be responsible in HIS house,” Ray replied.

“Ray, this is my house. But when you dirtied the floor, you have to clean it up, not me!” Eli said angrily.

“I don’t care,” Ray said as he walked to the kitchen to get another glass of orange juice.

Eli, Bob and Felix were angry at Ray for making the floor dirty and refusing to clean up.

Just then, they heard a loud crash!



“OUCH!” shouted Ray.

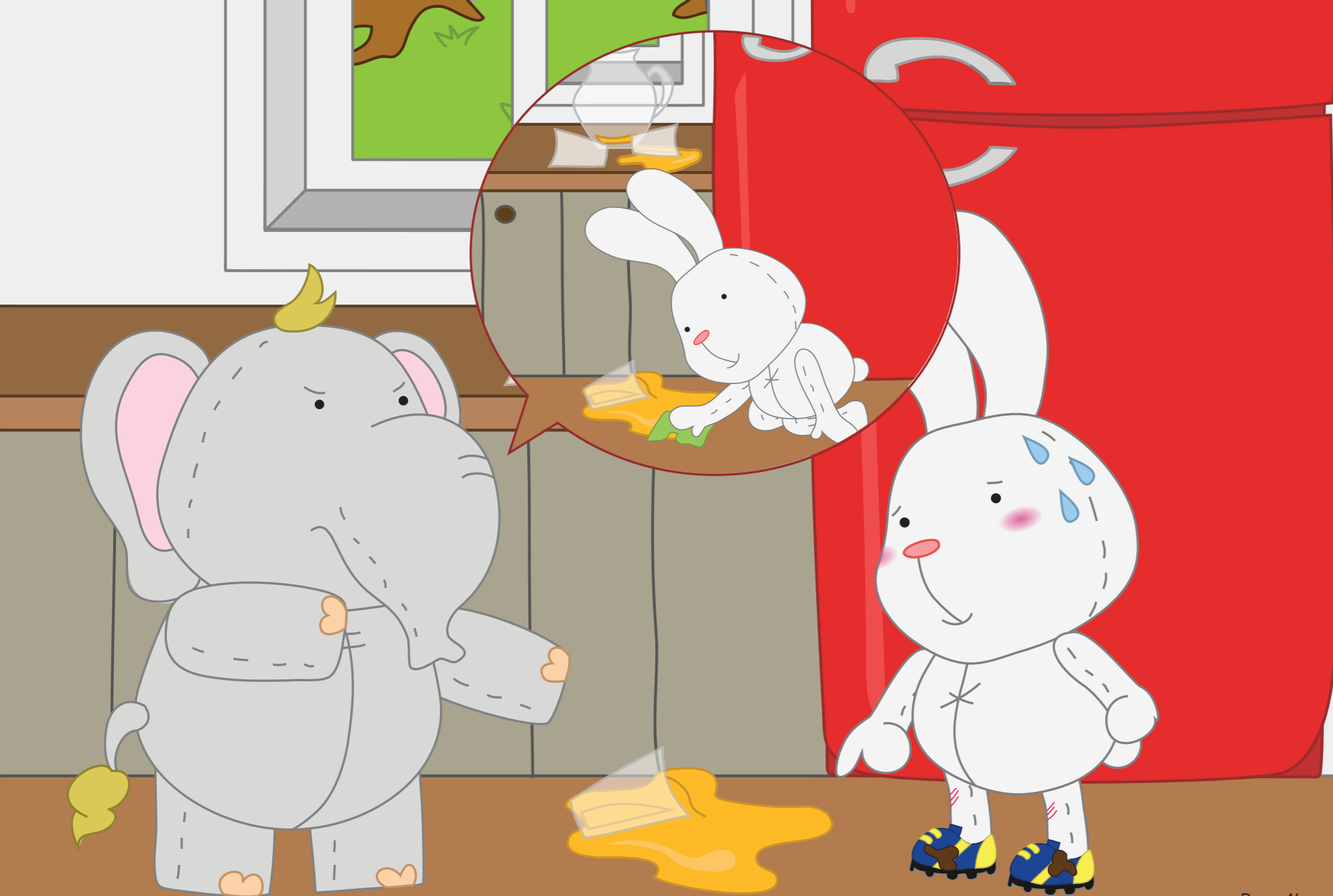
Eli, Bob and Felix rushed to the kitchen and saw Ray lying on the floor.

“What happened, Ray?” Felix asked.

“I... I... stepped on the orange juice and slipped,” Ray said.

“Orange juice? Why is there orange juice on the floor?” Eli asked while helping Ray up.

“I... I spilled orange juice on the floor earlier,” Ray said looking down.

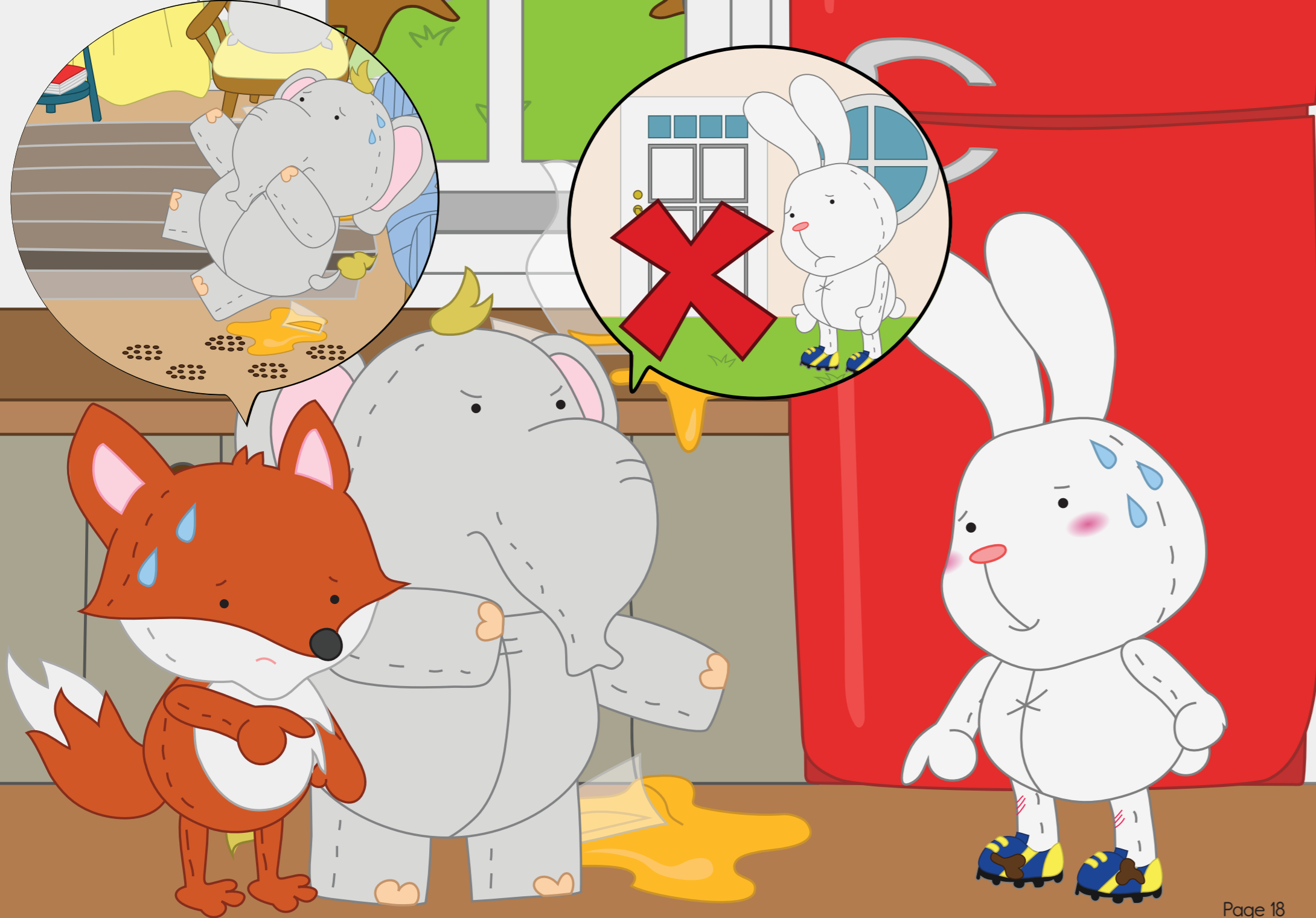


“You did not clean up after the spill, Ray?” Bob asked.

“Yes. I didn’t care because I thought Eli could clean it up later,” Ray said.

“Ray, this is my house. When you spilled the juice, you have to clean it up, not me!” Eli said angrily.

“When you make a mess, you have to clean it up yourself. That is responsibility,” Bob told Ray.



“If not, my house will be dirty and we cannot enjoy playing here anymore,” Eli said to Ray.

“And you might end up hurting others or yourself, just like how you fell down,” Felix pointed to Ray’s injured knee.

“I am sorry for not cleaning up and for making your house dirty, Eli. I will clean up the mess I have made,” Ray said looking down.



“We will help you!” Bob and Felix said as they each held a cloth in their hands.

Ray and his friends cleaned up the shoe prints and the orange juice on the floor.

“Yay! There is no more mess now because I care,” Ray said happily.

Ray was glad that he had learnt about responsibility that day.



Ask and Discuss

Here are some questions to further the discussion with your child. The suggested responses serve as a guide.

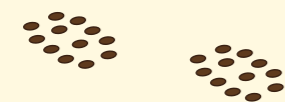
What value does this story teach?

This story teaches about Responsibility. Responsibility is doing what you need to do.



What happened in the story?

First, Ray walked into Eli's house in his dirty boots, dirtying the house. Next, he spilled orange juice all over the table top and floor but he did not clean it up. Instead, he said he did not care because it was not his house. Later, Ray slipped and fell because of the spilled orange juice.



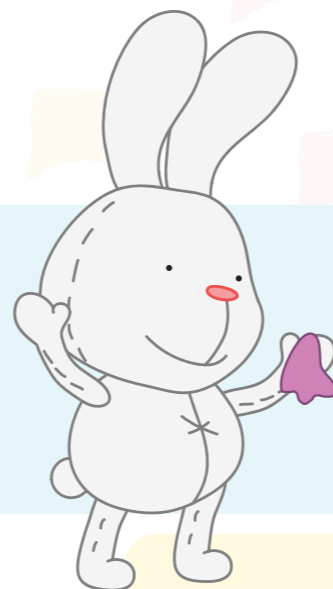
When did Ray not show responsibility? Why do you think Ray did not show responsibility?

When Ray walked around the house in his muddy boots and did not clean up the juice that he spilled. He did not care about others or the results of his actions. He thought it was Eli's house and Eli should be the one cleaning up.



How would you feel if you were Eli and you find out that your friend made a mess in your house?

I would feel upset/disappointed/sad.
(Parents/educators can ask children why they would feel this way and what they would do when they feel this way to encourage children to think about their responses to such feelings.)



Why should Ray show responsibility?

Ray should show responsibility and clean up since he made the mess.

What would happen if Ray continued to not show responsibility?

The house would remain dirty and messy. Eli would be angry with Ray for making a mess. Someone else might have slipped on the floor and hurt themselves. Ray would not be invited to Eli's house again.

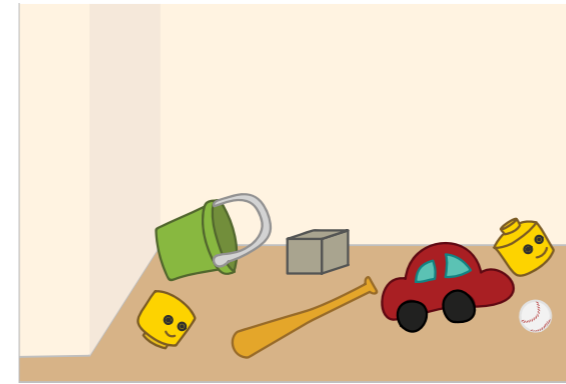


Activity: What does Ray need to do?

In this activity, children will match actions of showing responsibility to the respective scenarios.

1. Parent/educator/caregiver to print the picture cards on the next page and cut them out individually.
2. Mix the order of cards in their respective decks.
3. Flip the picture cards to face downwards in two rows. Get your child to select a card from each row.
4. When there is a correct match between the scenario card and the response card, discuss with the child how the character can show responsibility in that scenario.
5. If there is an incorrect match, flip the cards over and repeat till there is a correct match.

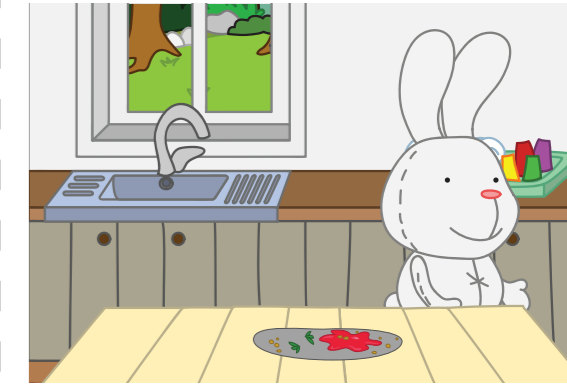
Scenarios



Ray left his toys all over the floor.



Ray did not make his bed after waking up.

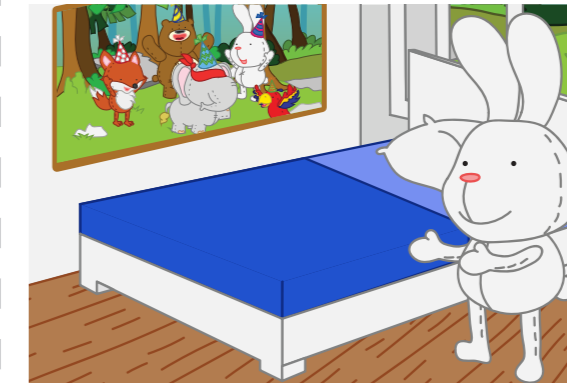


Ray left a dirty plate on the table.

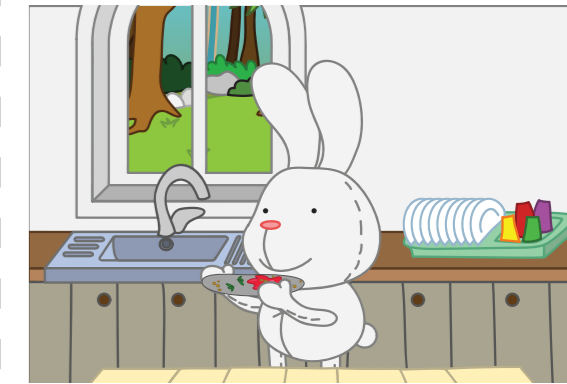
Ways to show responsibility



Ray keeps his toys after playing.



Ray makes his bed after waking up.



Ray puts the dirty plate in the sink.



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