



Children's
SOCIETY
Caring for the Future

Eli's Birthday Party



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 honesty. It was Eli's birthday party. While playing, Felix felt hungry. Felix looked at the delicious looking cake. Will Felix eat the cake before he is supposed to? Will Felix show honesty? Read on to find out more.





It was a bright and sunny day.

Eli jumped out of bed, swung his arms up in joy and yelled "Happy birthday to me!"

Eli was very excited about his birthday party later.

"I can't wait to see my friends," Eli said happily to himself.

"Ring!!!" the doorbell rang. Eli ran to open the door.



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELI!” shouted Bob, Felix, and their friends who were standing at the door.

“Thank you all for coming. Shall we play catching now before eating the food later?” asked Eli.

Eli, Bob, Felix and their friends yelled ‘yes!’ and ran out at once to play catching.



Felix got hungry while playing. He left the game of catching and walked quietly to the kitchen.

“Wow. The cake looks delicious!” Felix thought to himself as he rubbed his tummy.

Felix looked around and saw that no one was looking. “Let me take one small slice of the cake. No one would know,” Felix thought to himself.

He cut himself a slice of cake and ate it hungrily.



“This cake is so delicious. Let me eat one more slice!” Felix said as he took another slice of the cake.

Felix was getting full from the cake. Buurrrp!

Felix got a shock when he saw that most of the cake was gone! He had finished most of the cake.

“Oh no! What should I do now? Eli will find out someone has eaten his cake!” Felix thought to himself.



Felix got scared. He looked around to make sure no one had seen him eat the cake.

“I know! I will go outside to play and pretend I didn’t eat the cake.” Felix thought it was a good idea.

Felix went out to continue playing with his friends.



Soon, it was time to eat. Eli and his friends went into the house excitedly.

“WHO ATE MY CAKE?” shouted Eli when he saw the empty plate.

“Not me!” said Bob. “Not me!!!” said all the other friends. Felix was scared. “Not... not me.” Felix said softly.

“Then who ate the cake?” Eli started crying because he was sad that someone had eaten his birthday cake and he no longer had a birthday cake.

BURPPPPPPPP



Suddenly, there was a loud BURRRRRPPPPP.

“Who burped?” asked Eli as he looked at his friends.

BUURRP. “Another one?” asked Ray.

Felix looked down, hoping no one would notice that it was him.

Bob raised his eyebrow and asked, “Was that you, Felix?”

“No, not me!” Felix replied quickly.

“Are you sure?” asked Bob. Felix nodded.



“Were you the one who ate the cake?” Bob looked at Felix.

“No, it’s not...”, but Felix could not stop himself from burping.

“It’s you, Felix! You ate the cake! Why did you say it’s not you?” Bob asked angrily.

“I... was hungry and I only wanted to eat a small slice of the cake but it was so delicious that I ate a few more slices. I did not mean to eat so much cake,” Felix replied with his head hung low.



“Felix, that was not honest. Being honest means saying what is truthful. So if you had eaten the cake, you have to say you had eaten the cake. When you said you did not eat the cake, that was not truthful and so that was not honest,” Bob explained.

“But I was scared that Eli would be angry when he finds out that I was the one who had eaten the cake,” Felix said.



“Felix, I am angry that you had eaten the cake but I’d like it if you are honest. Being honest means saying what is true,” Eli said as he wiped his tears.

“I am sorry for eating the cake, Eli. I will not do it again. I will be honest and say what is truthful,” Felix looked up and said to Eli.

“What should we do about your birthday cake now?” Felix asked.



“Don’t worry about it. I’ve got a big cake here!” Bob brought out a big honey cake that he had made with his mother.

Bob, Felix, and their friends sang the birthday song for Eli and they all ate the honey cake happily.

Felix was glad that he had learnt about honesty 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 Honesty. Honesty is saying and doing what is truthful.



What happened in the story?

Eli had a birthday party with his friends. They played catching at the party. Felix was hungry and he ate the cake when no one was watching him.



When did Felix not show honesty? Why do you think Felix did not show honesty?

When Eli asked who had eaten the cake, Felix repeatedly said that he did not eat the cake. Felix did not show honesty because he did not want his friends to find out he had eaten the cake before the party.

How would you feel if you were Eli and you found out that your friend had eaten your birthday cake before the party?

I would feel angry or 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 Felix show honesty?

He should show honesty so that his friends will always believe him, trust him, and want to be friends with him.

What would happen if Felix continued to not show honesty?

Eli would feel sad and unsure about his friends. He might not want to celebrate his birthday anymore and his birthday party will be ruined. Felix would continue to feel bad and scared.



Activity: Which is the Honest line?

In this activity, children will discuss whether the character in each scenario is showing honesty.

1. Print and cut out the pictures on the next page and flip the pictures face down.
2. Get the child to pick a picture at a time and discuss whether the scenario shows honesty,
3. Should a printer be unavailable, activity can be improvised by showing child the pictures on an electronic device.



Felix told Eli that he did not eat the cake. Was Felix honest?

(No. Felix is not saying what is true.)

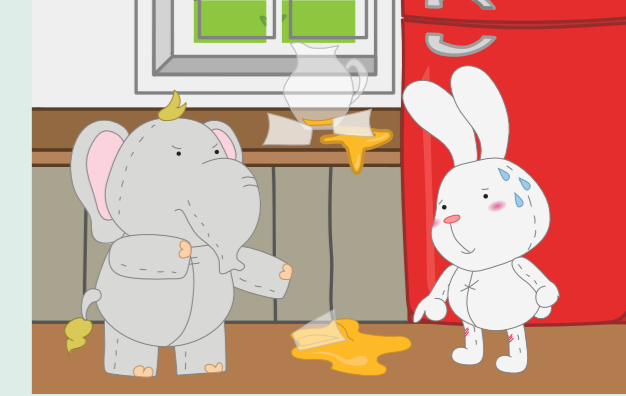
(No. Bob is not saying what is true.)



Bob told Eli and Felix that he made muffins for them when he bought them from a shop. Was Bob honest?

(No. Bob is not saying what is true.)

(No. Ray is not saying what is true.)



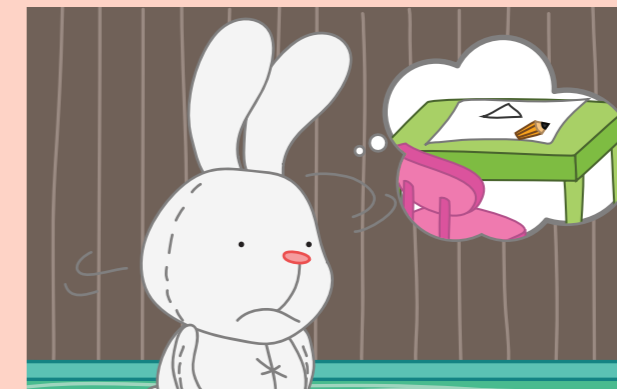
Eli told Ray that he was angry with Ray when Ray spilled the orange juice. Was Eli honest?

(Yes. Eli is saying what is true.)

(Yes. Felix is saying what is true.)



Bob did not feel like going to school and wanted to stay home and play. He then told his mother that he was unable to go to school as he was unwell. Was Bob honest?



Ray did not finish his homework. Ray told his teacher that he left his homework at home. Was Ray honest?



Felix told Eli that he was hungry and ate the cake. Was Felix honest?



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ABOUT SINGAPORE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Singapore Children's Society has been helping disadvantaged children, youth and their families in Singapore since 1952. We are an independent and non-profit organisation that relies predominantly on public support for many of our programmes and public education initiatives such as Choo Choo Train.

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