

Eli Plays at Pat's House



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 courtesy. Eli was excited to go to Pat's house to play. However, Eli did not respond when Pat's parents greeted him. Eli also did not respond when his friends greeted him. Will Eli show courtesy? Read on to find out more.





It was a bright and sunny morning. Eli was on his way to Pat's house to play.

"Ding dong! Ding dong!" Eli rang the bell excitedly.

"Hello Eli!" Pat's mother smiled widely as she greeted Eli outside the house.



“Where’s Pat? Oh, I can’t wait to play!” Eli dashed into the house without greeting Pat’s mother as he saw his friends playing inside the house.

“Eli, shouldn’t you say ‘hi’ to me? Courtesy is greeting someone when you see them...” Pat’s mother said. But Eli did not hear or answer her as he ran away.



“It’s you, Eli! Hello there!” Pat’s father called out as Eli ran past without greeting him.

“Eli, courtesy is greeting people when you see them!” Pat’s father tried calling out to Eli again.

“Hi Eli,” his friends greeted him as he joined them to play. But Eli did not say hello or answer them.

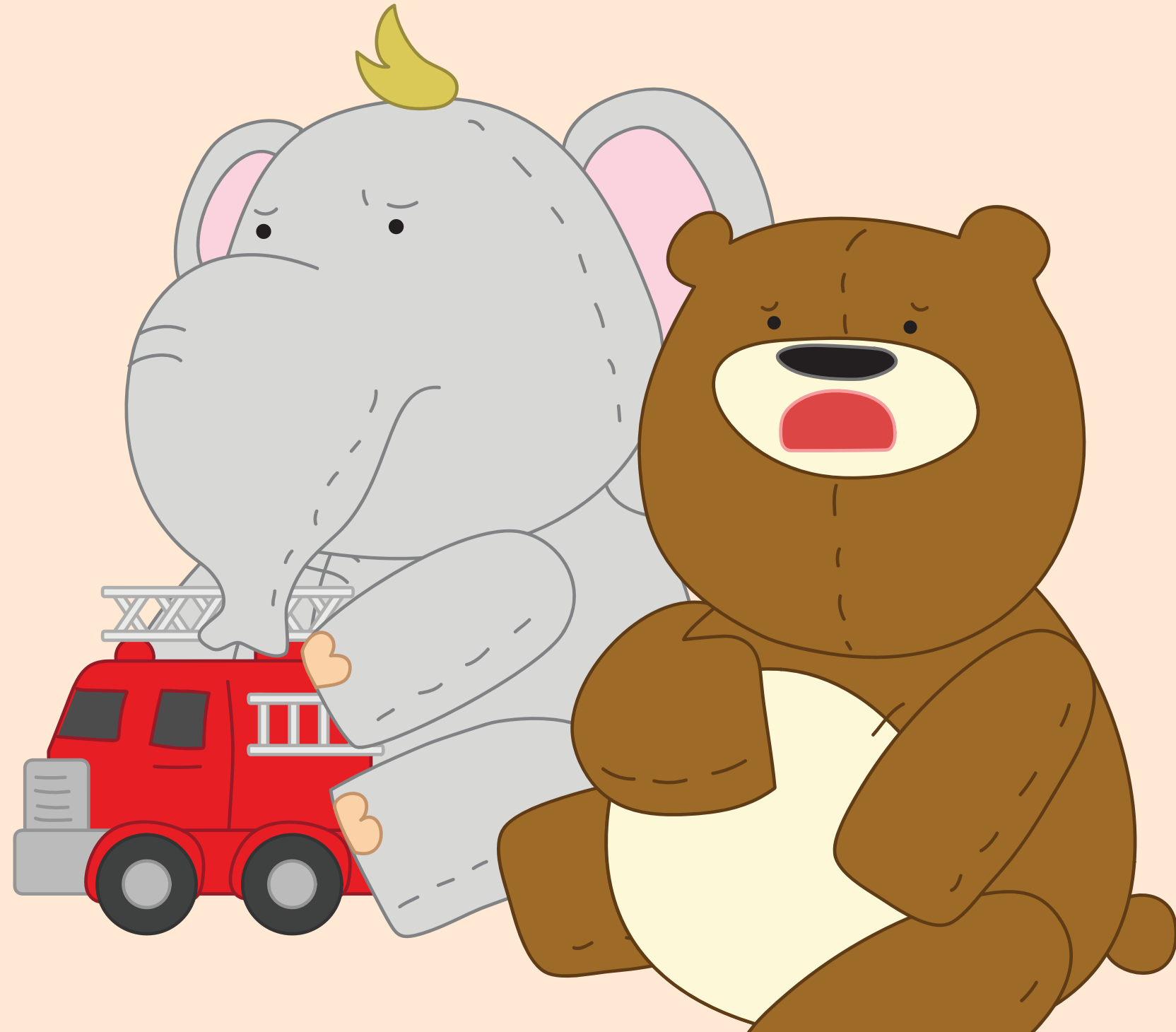


Soon, it was time for tea break.

“Hello children!” Pat’s mother called out as she held out a tray of freshly baked cookies.

“Hi Mum!” greeted Pat.

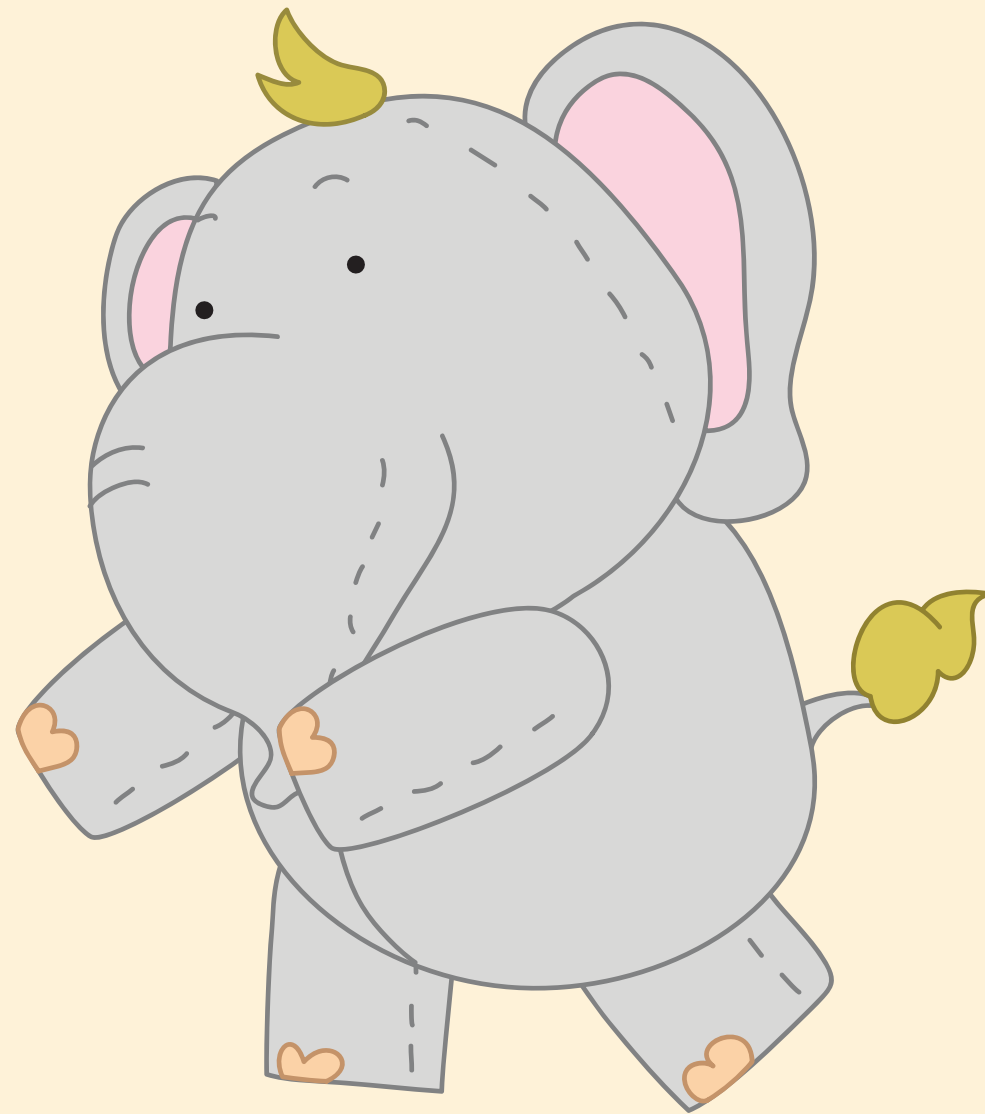
“Hi Auntie!” everyone greeted Pat’s mother, except for Eli who was still busy playing.



“Eli, stop playing and greet Pat’s mother,” Bob nudged Eli.

“Stop nudging me. I am still playing. Wait... What’s that smell?” Eli sniffed.

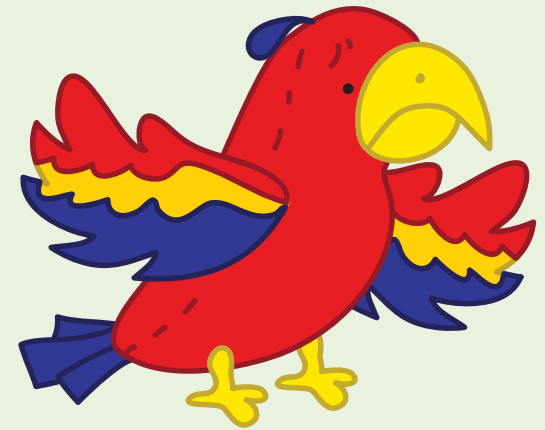
Eli looked up halfway and saw the plate of freshly baked cookies.



“Cookies!” Eli stretched out his hand to reach for a piece of cookie but the plate was pulled away.

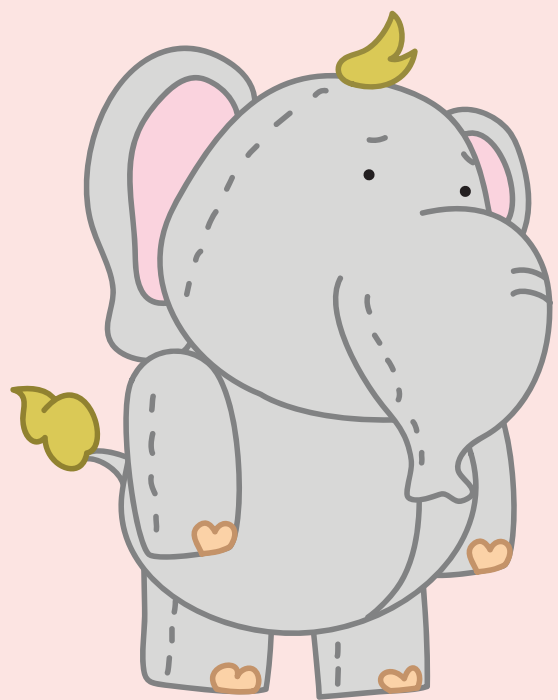
“Hello Eli!” Pat’s mother called out to Eli again while holding the plate away from him.

“I want cookies!” Eli looked up at Pat’s mother, still trying to reach for the cookies but Pat’s mother held on to the plate and looked at Eli in the eye.



“Eli! How can you only see the cookies but not my Papa and Mama?” Pat frowned.

“I saw them. I saw your mother at the door and I saw your father when I came in,” Eli replied.



“Then why didn’t you greet them when you saw them?” Felix asked.

“That’s right! And you didn’t greet us when we said ‘hi’ to you too!” Bob continued.



“Courtesy is greeting people when you see them, Eli,” Pat’s mother said. “Just like how all of us greeted you when we saw you.”

Eli realised his mistake and hung his head low. “Thank you everyone for showing courtesy to me. I’m sorry for not greeting all of you. Hello, Auntie. Hello, Uncle. Hello Pat, Bob and Felix!”



“Hello Eli!” greeted everyone in return.

“Auntie, may I still have a piece of cookie please?” Eli asked shyly.

“Of course you may, Eli!” Pat’s mother laughed as she handed everyone some cookies.

Eli was glad that he had learnt about courtesy 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 courtesy. Courtesy is showing good manners to the people around us.



What happened in the story?

Eli went to Pat's house to play. When Pat's parents and Eli's friends greeted Eli, Eli did not greet them back.

When did Eli not show courtesy? Why do you think Eli did not show courtesy?

When Eli went to Pat's house without greeting anyone he met. Eli did not show courtesy because he might be too excited to play but he forgot to respond to the greeting.



How would you feel if you were Pat's parents or Eli's friends and you greeted Eli but he did not greet you back?

I would feel sad/angry/ignored. *(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 Eli show courtesy?

Eli should show courtesy to let Pat's parents and his friends know that he saw them. This will make them feel seen and heard. This will also make them feel respected.



What will happen to Eli if he continued to not show courtesy?

Pat's parents and Eli's friends will be angry with him. Pat might not want to let Eli go to his house anymore. Eli's friends might not want to play with Eli anymore.



Activity: Let's Get Some Greeting Cookies

In this activity, children will learn different types of greetings.

1. Print and cut out the pictures from the next page and place the pictures around the house.
2. Let your child know that there are different ways of greeting someone and you are going to find the greeting cookies together.
3. After finding all the greeting cookies, go through the greeting on each cookie with your child and practise using them together.
4. The 8 different greetings are:
 - Hello!
 - Nice to meet you!
 - Hope you have been well!
 - Good day!
 - Good morning!
 - How are you?
 - How have you been?
 - Good to see you!





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