



# The Money Tree

*Created by*

Children in the NEYA  
Docklands Early Numeracy Project

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# About the Docklands Early Numeracy Project

In 2011, the Early Learning Initiative was one of 11 national demonstration projects awarded funding under National Early Years Access Initiative (NEYAI) to develop an Early Years Numeracy project. The project is funded by the Department of Education and Skills, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Mount St Club Trustees, The Atlantic Philanthropies, and Pobal.

## About the Book

The 'Docklands Early Numeracy Project' aims to improve early years numeracy skills in the Dublin Docklands area. Over the past three years, children and their families, educators, Parent Child Home Programme (PCHP) Home Visitors and PCHP families have taken part in all kinds of fun numeracy activities at home and at school/Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) settings.

A big part of the Docklands Early Numeracy Project is the Docklands Early Numeracy Week which is held once per term. Each term there is a different numeracy theme and a number of specially selected books form the centre of the numeracy week. For February 2014 the theme was "Money". When project staff searched for books to use for this theme they could not find any age appropriate books that used "Euro" in them. So we decided to write our own.....This book is made up of stories written by 6 schools, 8 ECCE services and 1 afterschool's project.

The children who are the co-authors of the stories are all under 6 years old.

# A word from our Funders

On behalf of the funders and NEYAI, Pobal is delighted to welcome the publication of The Money Tree by the NEYAI Docklands Early Numeracy Project. This is a very special book as it was co-written by the children and staff of the schools, childcare and afterschool settings involved in the Docklands project, in response to a gap they had identified...there are no age appropriate books that refer to 'Euro'.

Steering Group members were impressed with the vitality and fun that was obvious in classrooms and in early years settings during a visit to the Early Numeracy Project last year. It was so different to see children leading the learning and inspiring teachers and early educators to enjoy the lessons too. Everyone was learning together and....having fun! This new book is evidence of that approach.

We are delighted that so much has grown from the NEYAI investment and we wish you every success as you continue to model good practice and in your ABC project in the future. It is hoped that other communities can draw on your materials, methods and ideas, as indeed can policy makers and educationalists.

# Rosy and her Pig

*The Busy Bees and Wonderkids, After School Educational Support Programme, Dublin 1.*

Once upon a time there was a girl called Rosy and she had a little pig called Piggy. Rosy took Piggy everywhere on her piggy lead (like a doggie lead) so she wouldn't run off. One day Rosy brought Piggy down to the shop. When she got to the shop she opened her purse and she had a **€2 coin** and a **€1 coin**.



Rosy asked the fat man behind the counter with the funny nose for a chocolate bar and crisps for Piggy. The total bill was **€1.25**.

Rosy looked into her hand and she gave the shop keeper the **€2** coin and he gave her back **75c** change. Rosy was delighted and she walked down the road to the river. She sat down with Piggy and they ate the goodies. Rosy looked to see how much money she had left and she had a **€1 coin** and **75c**. Rosy walked to the park and played with Piggy. When Rosy got home she put the rest of her money into her saving box. She wanted to fill it up to the top with money so that she could buy lots more chocolate bars. The next day Rosy went to the bank with her daddy and Piggy. Rosy put all her money into her bank account.

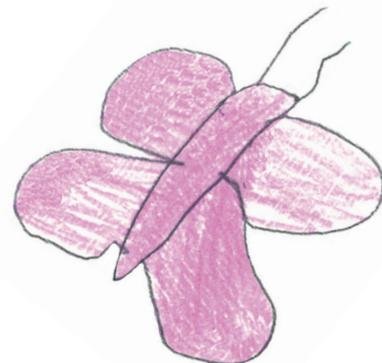
**The end**



# At the end of the Rainbow

*Senior Infants, City Quay National School, Dublin 2.*

Once upon a time, there was a lady called Shauna. She lived in the park, she was homeless. She really wanted to buy a house but she had no money, she was poor.



One day Shauna went for a walk in the country. She saw a rainbow over the mountains. It was very beautiful and had lots of colours. Shauna saw red, pink, blue, yellow and a lot of other colours too. Shauna sprinted to the end of the rainbow. Suddenly, she saw a pot of shiny coins! She found loads of Euros. She started to count the coins, **one, two, three, four...**

but there were too many to count. Shauna was over the moon, she had never seen so much money!



Shauna ran back to the corporation and screeched 'I'm rich! I'm rich! I want to buy a house.' She bought a mansion in the country.

There were five bedrooms and two toilets in her house. The next day, Shauna spent some more euro on food. After that she went to the airport and got on a plane to Turkey.

Shauna stayed in Turkey for three months. When she came back she moved into her mansion and lived happily ever after.

## The end



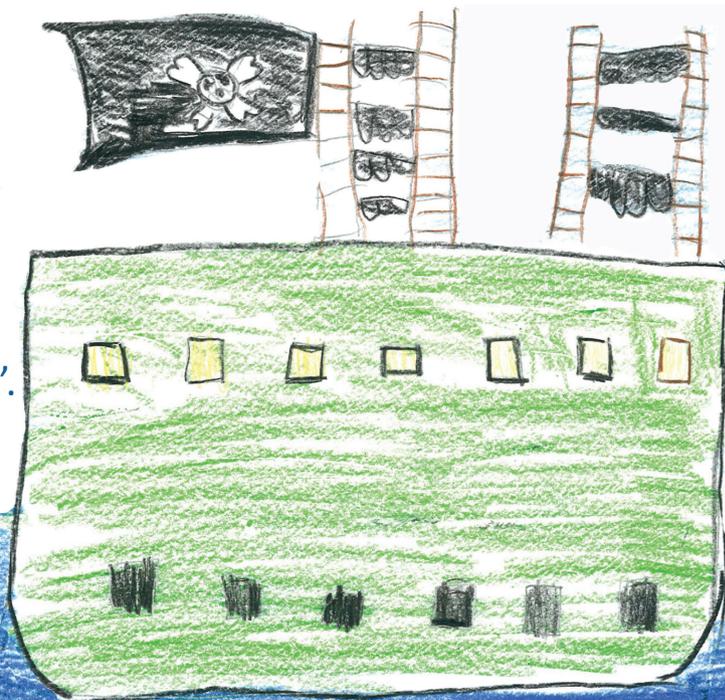
# The Owl and the Pussycat and the Naughty Pirates

*Junior and Senior Infants, St. Laurence O'Toole's Junior Boys School, Dublin 1.*

The Owl and the pussycat went to sea, sailing on a pea green boat. There was a flag on top of the boat with an owl and a pussycat on it. They were on their way to Treasure Island, to find the chest of money to help the poor people. The pirates were chasing them to get to the treasure chest of euros and cents first. They had a brown boat with a pirate flag.

The owl and the pussycat's boat was hit by a whale's tail.

They needed to get to the shop to buy things to fix up the hole in the boat. They needed a wooden board to fix the boat and a hammer and nails. They said to the shopkeeper "Can I have a wooden board for the boat and some nails and a hammer and how much is it?"



The shopkeeper said it was **€5.10** altogether. They said “we have **€5** to buy the wood, **€5** in **€1** coins to spend. You’re charging too much money!” The shopkeeper said “you can have it all for **€4.95**”. That is great they said, we still have **5c**.



They fixed the boat and the seahorses helped push the boat. The pirates were catching up. The owl and the pussycat got to Treasure Island first. They crashed into the treasure chest and the chest opened.

Out fell **hundreds** of **euro coins**, **50c**, **20c**, **10c**, **5c** and **1c**. The shark ate the pirate boat. The owl and the pussycat spent the treasure on the poor people.

**The end**

# Queen Elsa

*Senior Infants St. Laurence O'Toole's Girls National School, Dublin 1*

Once upon a time there was a Queen called Elsa. She was beautiful, kind, and good, and all the people in her kingdom adored her, but she had a problem. She had a mean greedy sister called Donna. She was jealous of her amazing sister.

Elsa was very rich and Donna wanted her money. Donna stole Elsa's money when her sister wasn't there.

She went up town and bought a pointy hat, a magic wand, and evil potions in Witchy Wonders Shop.

It cost **€100**. Donna made Elsa be her servant and she lived in the witch's



tower. Donna became the mean Queen and turned all the people of the land into frogs. Elsa had to clean and tidy the tower. One day while she was tidying she found a secret hideaway.

She found **€100**.

Off to Good Fairy Shop she went and bought her own wand. She turned all the frogs back into people and magically changed Donna into a kind person.

To celebrate, Elsa and Donna invited everybody to a ball in the castle. They shared their money with the poor people, everybody got **€20** each, and they all lived happily ever after.

**The end**



# Funny Money

*Room 4, Holy Child Pre-school, Dublin 1.*

One day Lucy, Toni and Alicia were walking home from Holy Child Preschool. A woman ran quickly past them trying to catch the 123 bus on Summerhill. She caught the bus just in time but as she jumped on, a shiny **€1 coin** dropped from her bag. Lucy grabbed it quickly and said; 'Hey, let's go to Gerry's and buy some sweets'.

The girls went to Gerry's shop. Lucy wanted crisps, Alicia wanted jellies and Toni wanted chocolate. They could not agree what to buy, and they left the shop with nothing. The girls all went home.



As Lucy climbed the stairs to her apartment she met a lady on the landing. She recognised her as the woman who had run past them for the bus.

'Excuse me', she said. 'I think you dropped this **€1 coin** while running for the bus.' 'Oh, thank you dear... you're right, I did' said the lady.

'I was looking for it to pay the driver'. Lucy gave the money back to the lady.

'Please take this **€5** as a thank you', said the lady. The next day Lucy took the **€5 note** to school.

After school, Lucy, Alicia, and Toni bought sweets in Gerry's to share with everyone in Room 4 Holy Child Preschool.

**The end**



# The Birthday Party

*Pre-school, Daisy Days Childcare, Dublin 3.*

One sunny day it was Elaine's birthday. Her friends Lilly, Georgia and Alex are going to the party. "Oh we have to get a present for her" said Lilly. Georgia asked her mammy for some money.

"We need **one, two, three, four, five euro.**" Georgia said. "We are going to the shop to get her a present." said Alex. "Oh that's lots of money, we will go to the Cupcake Shop." said Lilly.

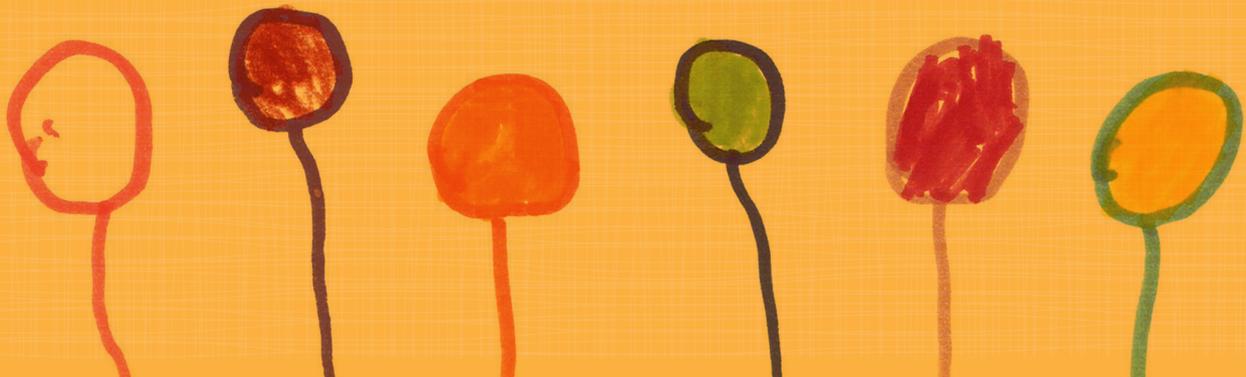
The children walked to the Cupcake Shop with Georgia's mammy. In the shop the shop keeper smiled at them and said "How can I help you girls". "Hello shopkeeper can we have cake, we have lots of **euro**?" said Alex.

The girls pointed to some yummy pink cupcakes. "**€5** please" said the shop keeper. Georgia's mammy helped the girls to count out the money....**one, two, three, four, five euro.**

Georgia looked into her purse, “I have no money left to get Elaine a present” she said. “It’s ok, I have money in my purse. Let’s go get a balloon” her mammy said. In the balloon shop they found a pink balloon. It was €3. Georgia’s mammy lifted Alex up to the counter to pay for the balloon.

They all went to the party and had a great day with all their friends. Alex, Georgia and Lily shared the cupcakes with everyone. Elaine loved her pink balloon.

The end



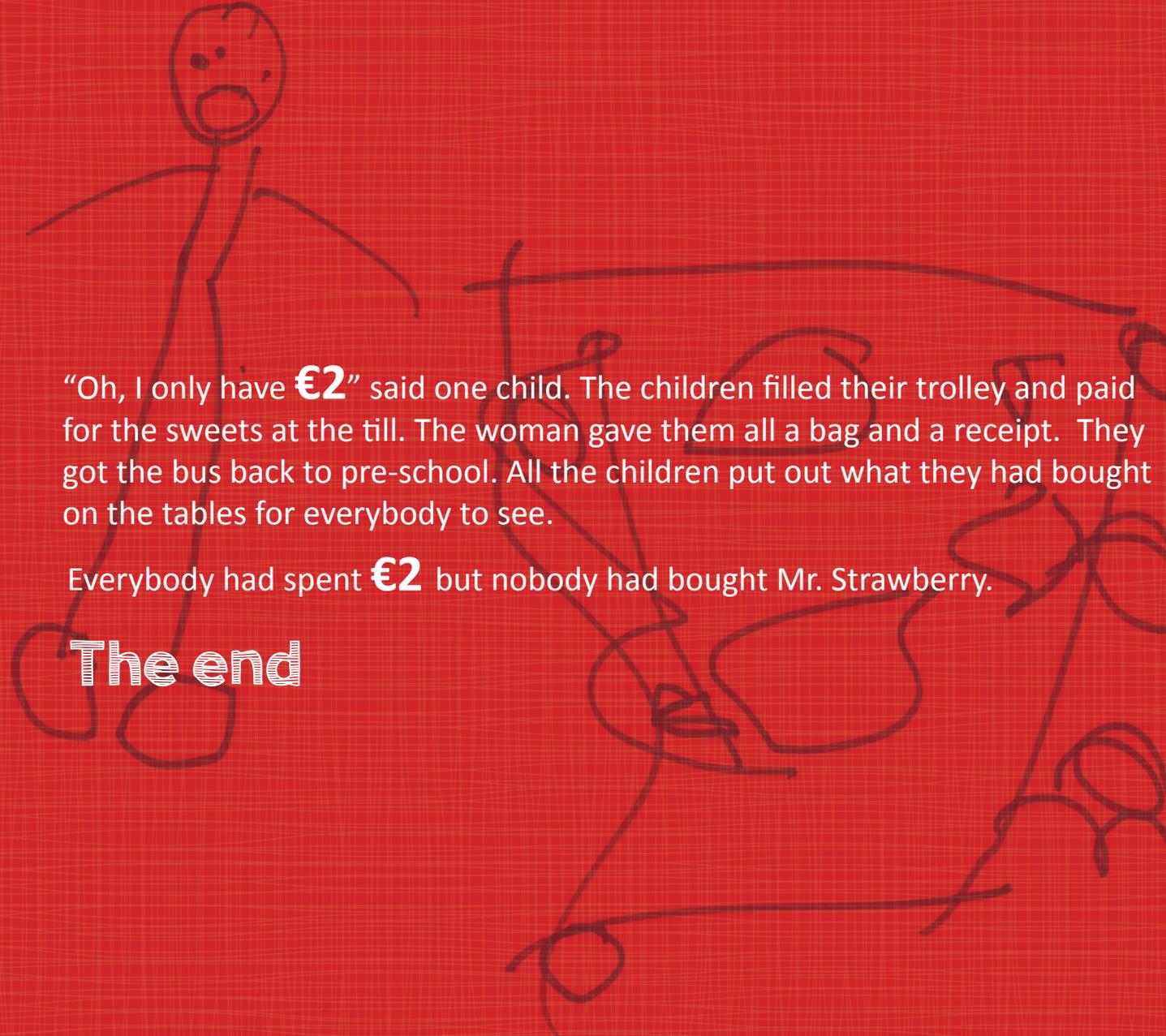
# Going to buy Mr Strawberry

*Pre-school, Little Treasures Community Crèche, Dublin 1.*

One day, the pre-school children in Little Treasures Crèche went on a trip to the supermarket. They wanted to go shopping the way big people do.

Each child brought in €2 to spend. Some of the children wanted to buy strawberries and others wanted to buy sweets. The supermarket was far away so the children had to get the bus. The children did not have to give the bus driver any money because they were not in big school yet.

In the shop they got to share a trolley. The children wanted to see what they could buy for €2. The people in the shop were very nice. They helped the children to find sweets. The man helped them find the strawberries. “Strawberries cost more than €2” he said,



“Oh, I only have **€2**” said one child. The children filled their trolley and paid for the sweets at the till. The woman gave them all a bag and a receipt. They got the bus back to pre-school. All the children put out what they had bought on the tables for everybody to see.

Everybody had spent **€2** but nobody had bought Mr. Strawberry.

**The end**

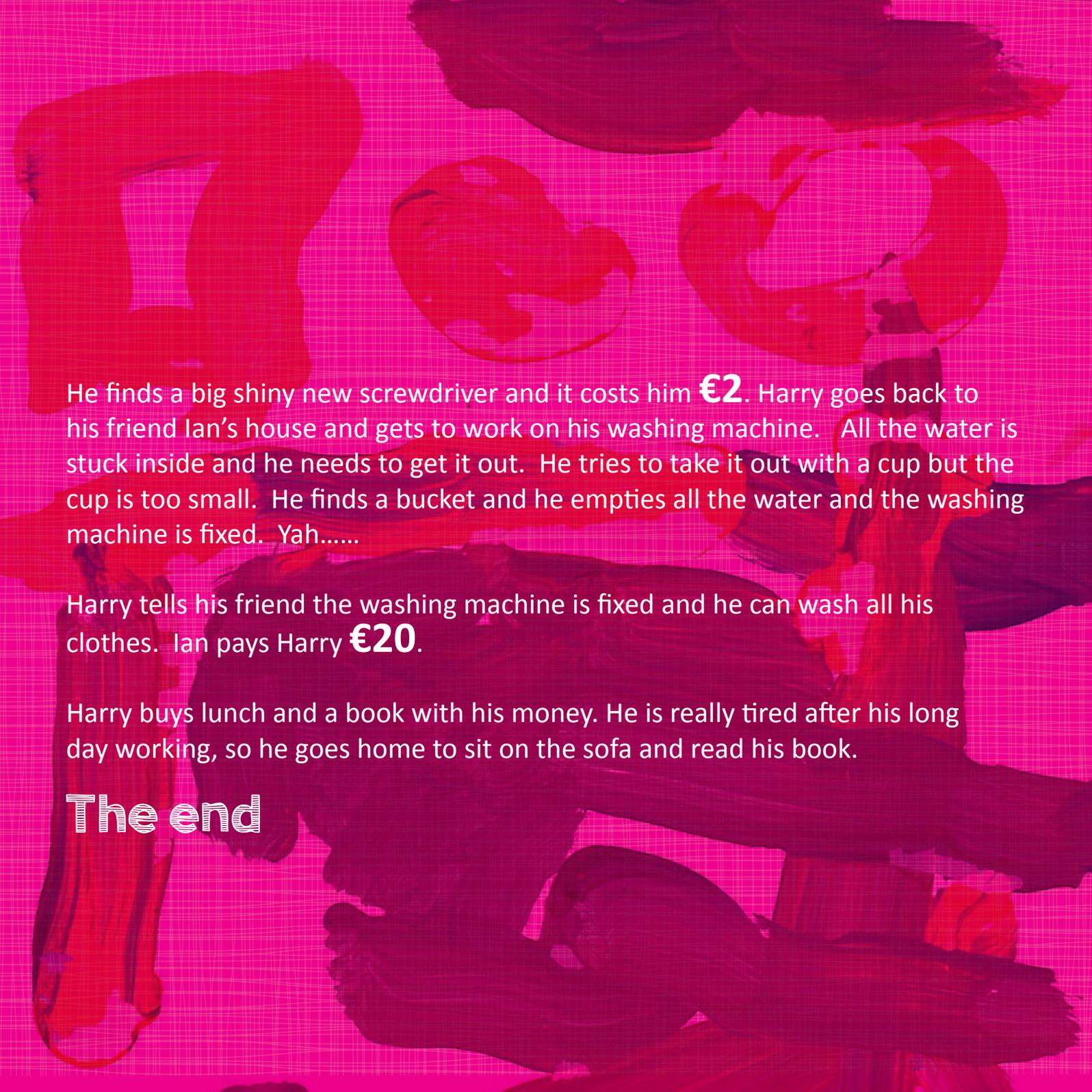
# Harry the Plumber

*Three year olds, Community After Schools Project (CASPr) Crèche, Dublin 1*

**H**arry the Plumber wears a jelly bean hat and a big belt with pockets to hold his tools. He works at fixing things for everyone, and he gets paid when he does a good job. He has lots of tools in a big green box which he takes to work with him. One day Harry gets a phone call from his friend Ian asking him 'could you please come and fix my washing machine, it is full of water and it won't go out'.

When he arrives at Ian's house to fix the washing machine he finds that some of his tools are broken. Harry has to go to the shop to buy new ones.

Harry goes to the Euro shop for new tools. He finds a new hammer and spanner in the Euro shop. He has to pay **€3** for the hammer and **€2** for the new spanner, but he could not find a screwdriver. He goes to the red shop called Peter's shop.



He finds a big shiny new screwdriver and it costs him **€2**. Harry goes back to his friend Ian's house and gets to work on his washing machine. All the water is stuck inside and he needs to get it out. He tries to take it out with a cup but the cup is too small. He finds a bucket and he empties all the water and the washing machine is fixed. Yah.....

Harry tells his friend the washing machine is fixed and he can wash all his clothes. Ian pays Harry **€20**.

Harry buys lunch and a book with his money. He is really tired after his long day working, so he goes home to sit on the sofa and read his book.

**The end**

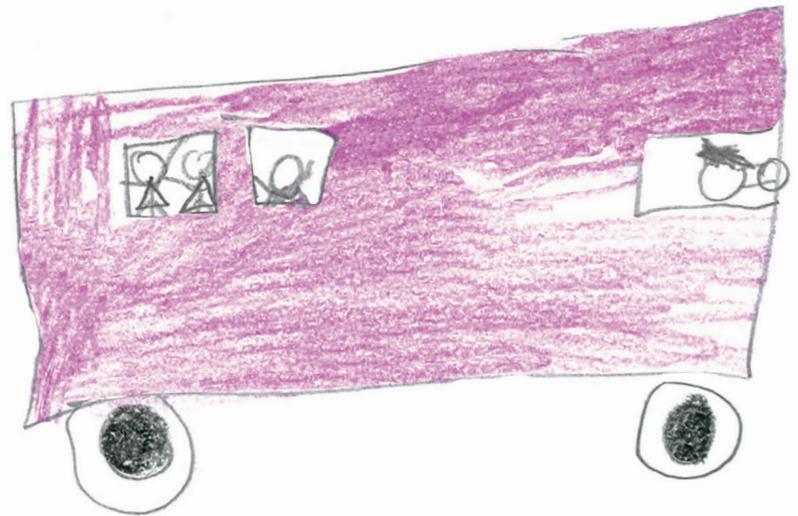
# The day I met my best Friend

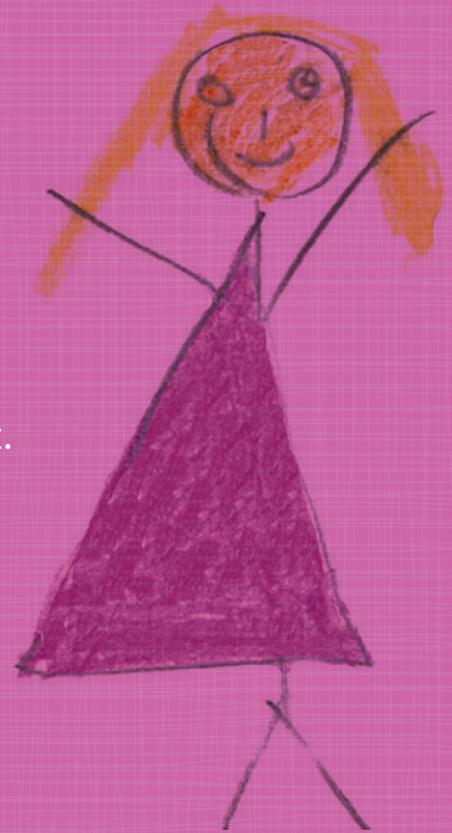
*Pre-school, Ringsend and District Community Crèche, Ringsend, Dublin 4.*

**T**he day Jane met her best friend she was four years old. It was her birthday, and her mammy and daddy had gotten her lots of great presents. But there was still one thing she really wanted. And today she was going to buy it herself.

Her very own hamster!  
She was going to buy him out of her birthday money. She knew they were going to be best friends.

She got the bus to the pet shop with her mammy and daddy. Mammy gave her the money to give to the bus driver; **80c** for her, **€2** and **35c** for mammy and daddy.





When they got to the pet shop Jane was very excited. She was so happy to be getting her own pet. The man who worked in the pet shop let Jane look at lots of different hamsters. She chose Hammy the hamster because he was her favourite.

Hammy was all brown and he cost **€15**. Jane had to buy a cage and food for Hammy.

His cage was expensive! It was **€45!** The big bag of food cost **€20**. She bought Hammy lots of toys which cost **€20**. The total price was **€100**.

Jane gave the money to the shop keeper. She paid for it all by herself with her birthday money.

Jane was so happy that she bought Hammy because he became her best friend. That day was the best day ever because it was when she met her best friend.

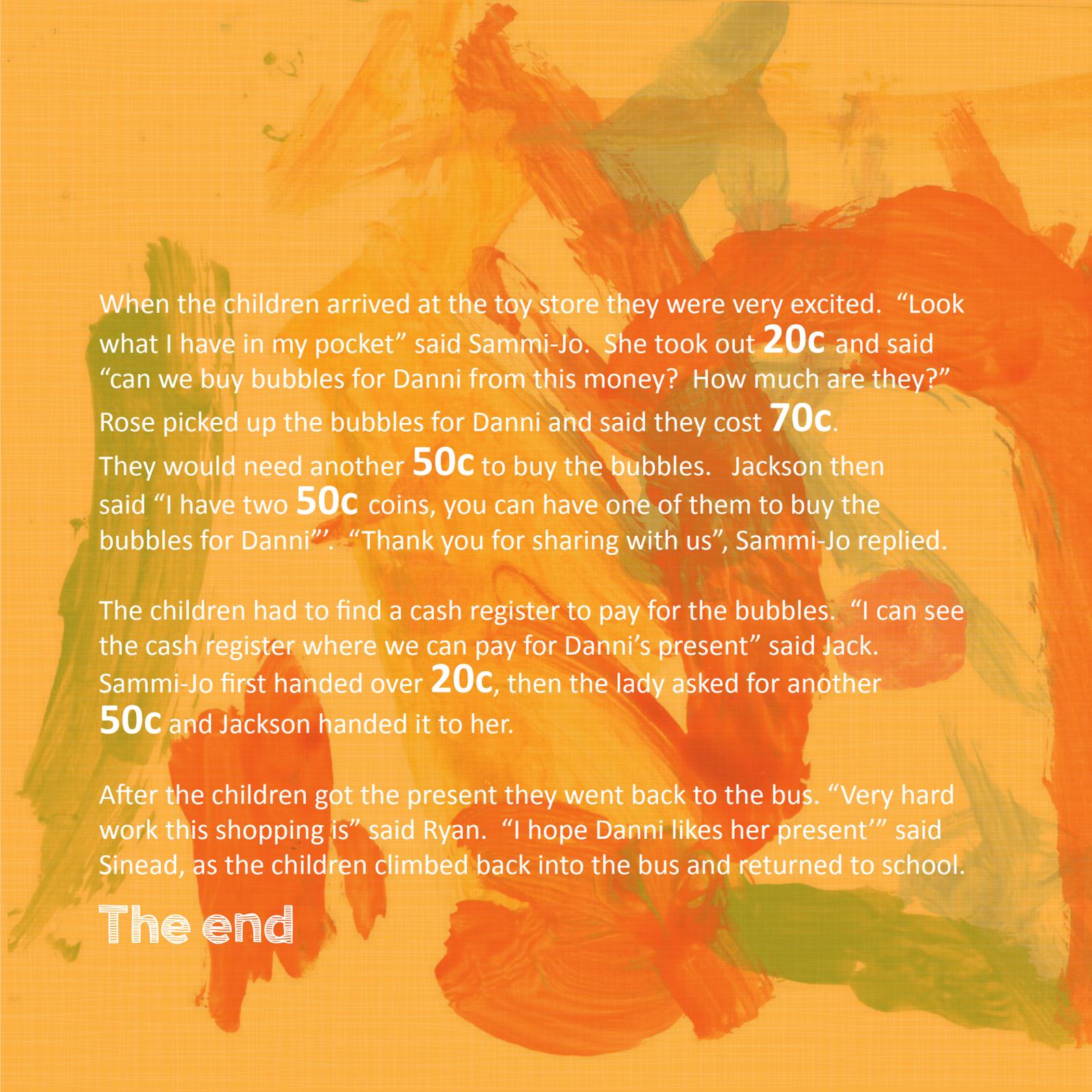
**The end**

# Danni's Leaving Present

*Pre-school room, Smallies Pre-school, Dublin 1.*

**D**anni was going to big school. “I’m going to be very sad” said Lexi. “Why will you be sad?” asked Elaine. Lexi said, “I will miss Danni when she goes to big school”. “Can we buy Danni a present for leaving?” asked Ellie.

Ryan had an idea. “We can go shopping to buy Danni a present”. The children liked Ryan’s idea but they had no money. Brody said, “Maybe we can get money from our saving boxes to buy the present for Danni?”. “I have lots of euro in my box” Karson said to Donna. “Me too!” said Maisie. The children all cheered. “We’re going on a shopping trip!! Can Thomas the bus driver bring us to the toy store for Danni’s present?” asked Ryan. “Yes”, replied Rose.



When the children arrived at the toy store they were very excited. “Look what I have in my pocket” said Sammi-Jo. She took out **20c** and said “can we buy bubbles for Danni from this money? How much are they?”

Rose picked up the bubbles for Danni and said they cost **70c**.

They would need another **50c** to buy the bubbles. Jackson then said “I have two **50c** coins, you can have one of them to buy the bubbles for Danni”. “Thank you for sharing with us”, Sammi-Jo replied.

The children had to find a cash register to pay for the bubbles. “I can see the cash register where we can pay for Danni’s present” said Jack. Sammi-Jo first handed over **20c**, then the lady asked for another **50c** and Jackson handed it to her.

After the children got the present they went back to the bus. “Very hard work this shopping is” said Ryan. “I hope Danni likes her present” said Sinead, as the children climbed back into the bus and returned to school.

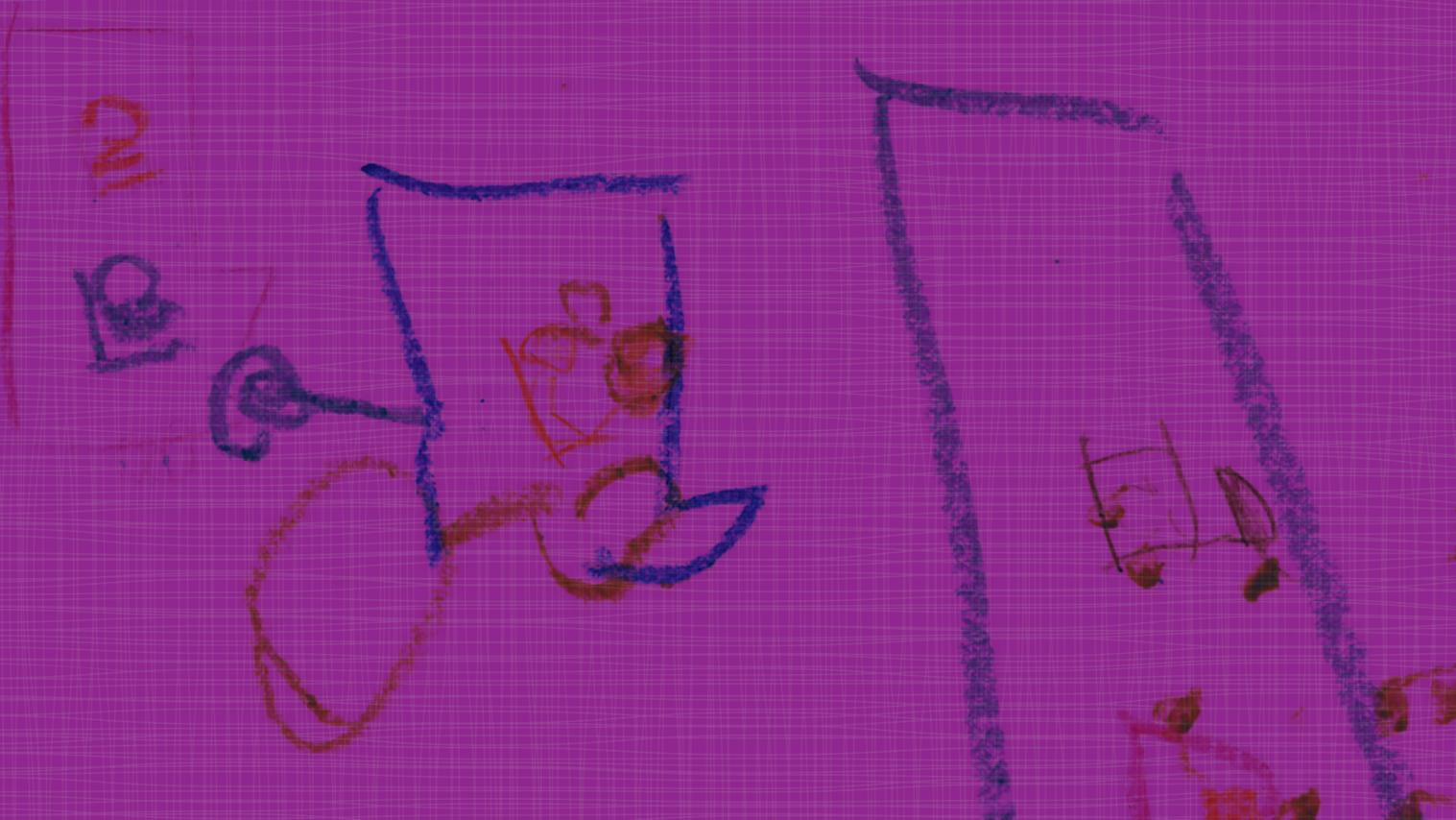
**The end**

# Our Trip on the Train

*Pre-school, St. Andrew's Resource Centre Crèche, Dublin 2*

One sunny day the children in St Andrew's Resource Centre Crèche wanted to go the park. "It is too far to walk" their teacher Maria told them "so we will have to get the train!" "Yeah! We love trains" they shouted. "The butcher will give us lollipops" said Megan. He always did when the children passed by. Their teacher Maria and two mammy's were going on the trip too. They all put on their coats. As they walked past the Butchers Shop, the butcher waved at them and said "hello children, where are you going today"? "We are going to the park on the train." said Teegan. The butcher gave them a lollipop each.

When the children got to the station Lexi said "we will buy the tickets". Megan said "we need money, €20". Maria gave each child some money to buy their ticket. Some of Megan's money fell out of her hand and she started to cry. "It's ok Megan, I found your money, I will help you buy your ticket" said her friend Lexi. "My ticket is orange" Megan shouted after she bought her ticket. "Thank you for helping me Lexi" she said.



As the train arrived at the station Teegan shouted “that’s the train driver”! The train stopped and the doors opened. They all got on the train and sat beside the window. Megan said “we’re going to the park now! There’s the steps we go down, and that’s where the people go”. They all got off the train when it stopped. When the children got to the park they played on the seesaw and on the swings. Then it was time for dinner so they walk back to the train station.

**The end**

# Pyjama Day

*Pre-school, St. Mary's Crèche, Dublin 2*

Once upon a time there was a lovely crèche called St Marys Crèche. The children all loved to play and have fun. One night bad boys came into the crèche through the roof and stole the camera. “Did you see the smashed roof”? Sophia asked. “I saw brown footprints on the roof and they broke the window in Holy Gods house too”. “I think the robbers are naughty ‘cause he stole the money” Pixie said.

“We need to buy a new camera” the children shouted. The children wanted to make some money so that they could buy a new camera. “Let’s wear our pyjamas to crèche to get money to buy a new camera.” Layla said. So the children all wore their pyjamas to crèche the next day.



All of the mummies and daddies gave the children **€2** to help buy a new camera.

“We are putting the money in the green bucket” said Josh “that’s **20c, 5c** and **€2**”. At the end of the day Layla asked how much money they got. The teacher said “we got **€77**”.

“Are we rich?” Ruain asked. Layla said “can we get the camera now?”. The children were so excited they started to all talk at the same time. Lucy said “buy a pink camera” and Scott said “buy a green one”, and Cian said “get a camera in the charity shop”. The teacher went down to the camera shop and bought a shiny new camera that cost **€77**. When she came back she asked the children “what was your favourite part of the pyjama day?”. Ruain said “going to school in my pjs, I felt lovely and warm” and they all laughed, and lived happy ever after.

**The end**

# Nathan and Tadhg's trip to the toy shop

*Junior and Senior Infants, St. Patrick's Boys National School, Ringsend, Dublin 4*

Once upon a time, there were two little boys called Nathan and Tadhg. Nathan was 6 years old and he was in Senior Infants. Tadhg was 4 and a half, and he was in Junior Infants.

Their mother Lisa won money at the Bingo. She decided to buy them toys as a treat. They all went to the toy shop on the bus with their father Gary.

Nathan wanted to buy a Bat Cave which cost **€10**. Tadhg wanted to buy a new remote controlled car which cost **€15**.

They were very excited when they got to the toyshop. They ran around and Nathan knocked over a little boy who was holding an ice-cream. Dad came over and told Nathan that he must say sorry and that they would buy the boy another ice-cream. Nathan said sorry to the little boy, and Tadhg said sorry for running around the shop.

Dad gave the boy's mammy money to buy another ice-cream. Lisa and Gary were proud that the boys were being good again. They queued up at the checkout counter to pay for the toys. The cashier scanned each item and asked Lisa, their Mam, for **€25**. Lisa gave the cashier **€30**.

The cashier handed her back **€5** in change from the cash register, along with a receipt. They were all happy leaving the shop. The boys were eager to get home to play with their new toys.

**The end**



# Elsa's New Puppy

*Senior Infants St. Patrick's Girls National School, Ringsend, Dublin 4*

**T**here once was a girl named Elsa, who wanted a puppy more than anything in the whole wide world. She needed to find a way to earn some money so that she could buy a puppy. So she sat down in her favourite comfy chair and had a little think about it.

She decided that she would bake cakes and sell them to help her get enough money for her new puppy.

The next day she asked her Mam for help, and they set to work baking as many cakes as they could. They made 25 cakes and they decided that Elsa would sell them for **€1** each.



Elsa sat outside her front door and sold big cakes, small cakes, chocolate cakes and jam cakes. All of her neighbours and friends bought cakes from her, and she managed to make **€25!** That was just enough for a brand new puppy.

On the weekend, when Elsa wasn't in school, Elsa's Mam took her to a Pet Shop so that she could pick out a new puppy.

Elsa picked a small, fluffy, black and white Dalmatian puppy and she called him Spot!!

**The end**



# Acknowledgements

**Without the active engagement and participation of our partners, we would not have been able to make this book. We would like to acknowledge and thank all who helped to make this book and who supported us in the Docklands Early Numeracy Project:**

- Firstly, the children and their early years educators and teachers, who put the time and imagination into writing the stories, and the dedication they put into making the Docklands Early Numeracy Project come alive: Little Treasures Community Crèche; Smallies Preschool; Daisy Days Childcare; Holy Child Preschool; CASPr Crèche; St Mary's Crèche; St Andrew's Resource Centre Crèche; Ringsend and District Community Crèche; St Patrick's Boys National School, Ringsend; St Patrick's Girls National School, Ringsend; City Quay National School; St Laurence O'Toole's Junior Boys School; St Laurence O'Toole's Girls School; St Joseph's Co-ed Primary School, East Wall and After School Educational Support Programme.
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- Finally, a special thanks to the National College of Ireland's Graphic Designer, Grainne Foley, for taking the stories and pictures created by the children and turning them into such a beautiful book.

# Thank You



## **Early Learning Initiative**

National College of Ireland

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Edited by Catriona Flood and Roisin Dunne  
Graphic Design by Grainne Foley

