

Moving to My New Home

A book to help children get ready to move into their new home



Note to children

This is your workbook for you to keep.

Please draw or write down in the book any thoughts or questions you may have.



Note to carers and parents

The aim of this book is to explain to children about what to expect during the time the institution is closing. This book belongs to the child and asks the child to complete the worksheets and write down any questions they have at this time.

The book has been written for young children and for children with early reading skills. It has been designed using easy to read format so that it is also accessible for children with intellectual disabilities. Some children will need their carers to read the book with them.

The book should be part of a range of support for preparing children for changes and for moving into their new homes.



This book is for...



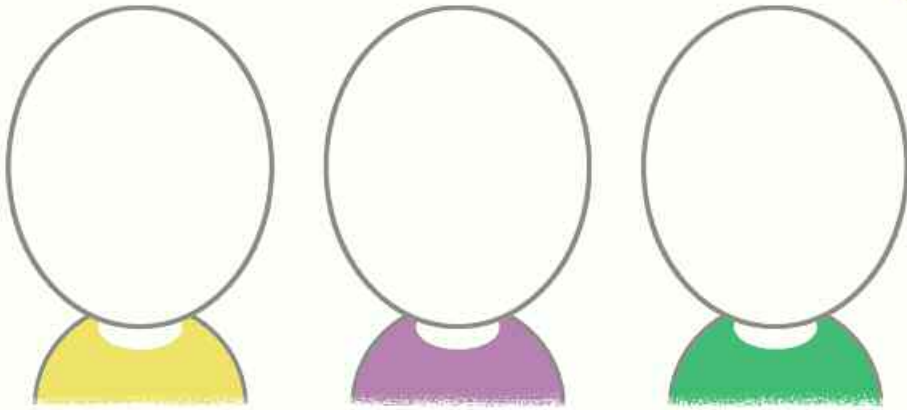
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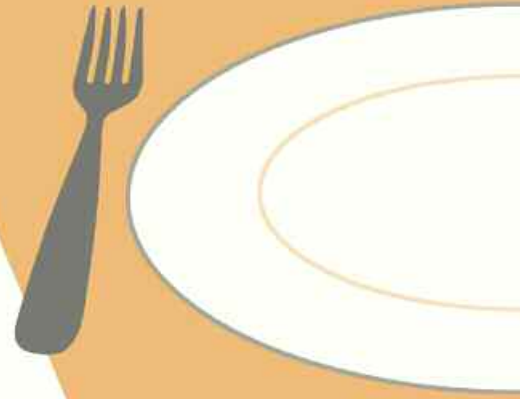
You could draw a picture of yourself or use a photo. Write your name here!



My family...



Here is what



All a
M

A picture by me...



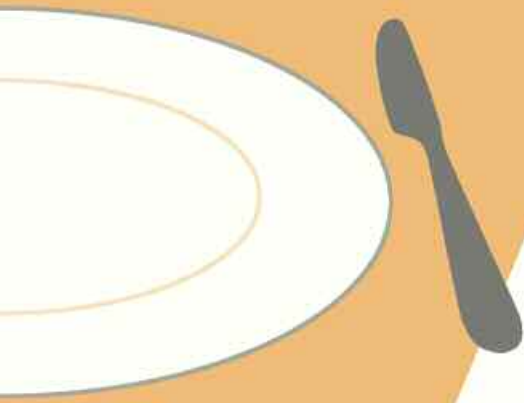
What I like

1.

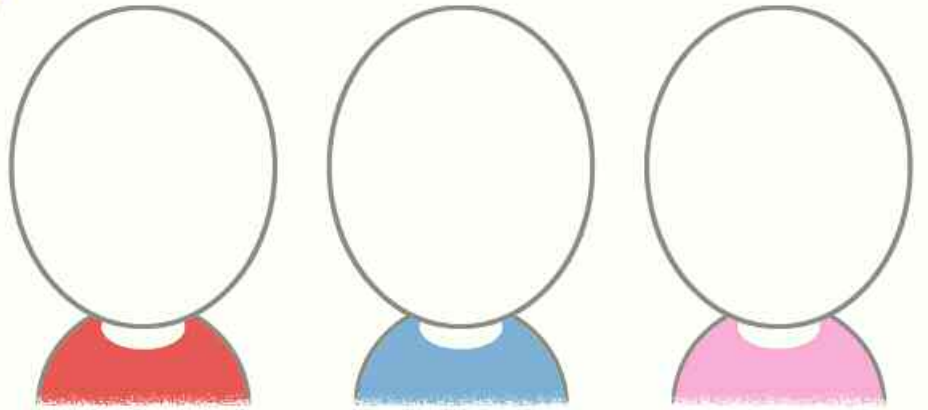
2.

3.

What food I like...



My friends...

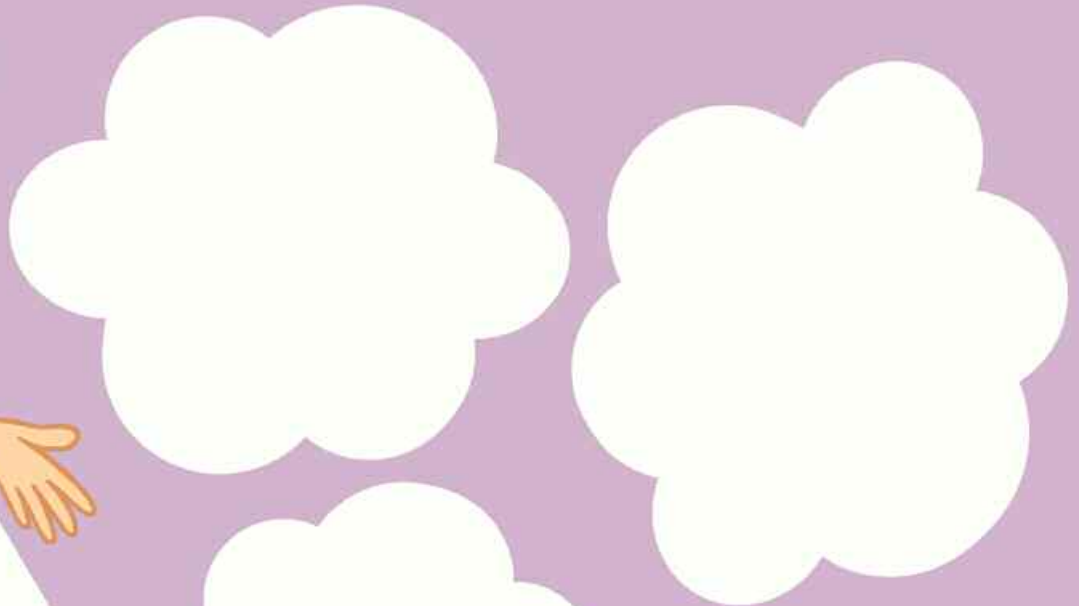


About me!

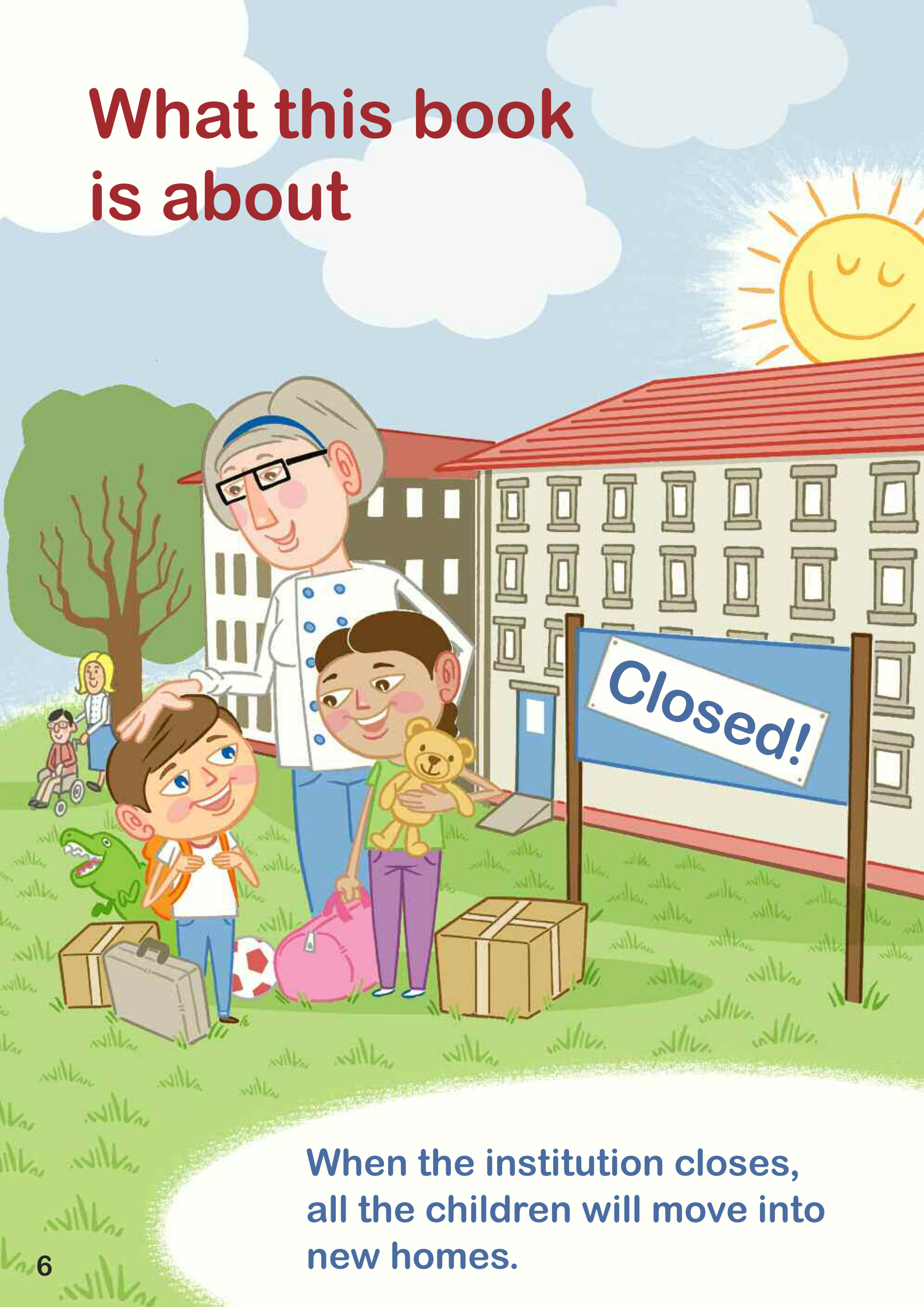


What I'm good at...

What I'm good at...



What this book is about



When the institution closes,
all the children will move into
new homes.



It can be scary moving to a new home.

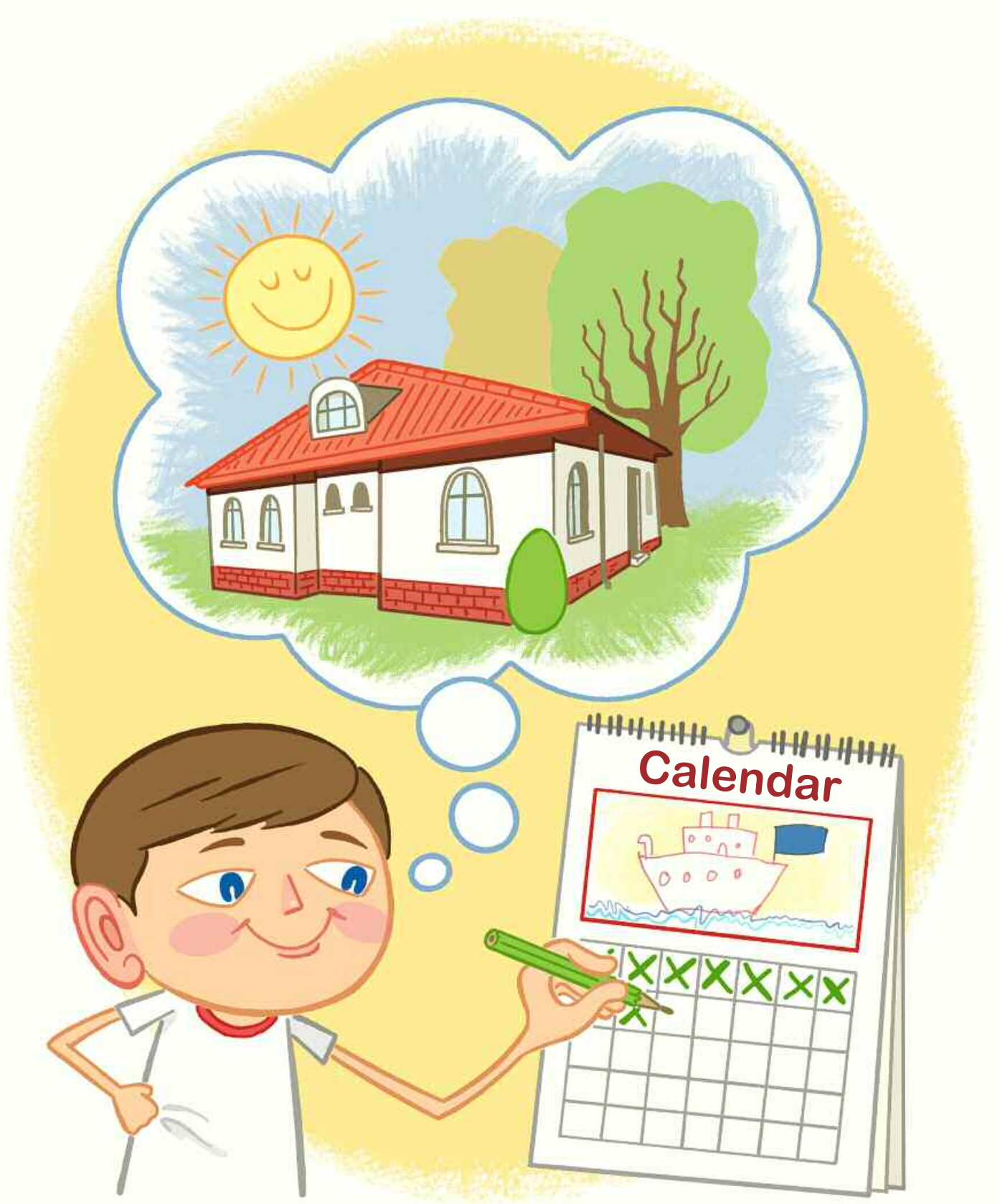


But it can also be very exciting!



This book will help you get ready to move into your new home.

It is good to talk about your feelings with people you trust.



Closing the institution can take a long time. This is because everybody wants to make sure that your new home is right for you.

You will stay living in the institution until your new home is ready.

Why is the institution closing?



Institutions can be too big.

Institutions can have too many rules.

Institutions can be far away from children's families.

It is better for children to grow up in families and in small group homes.



Where I will live?

Where you will live will depend on a lot of things. People called the project team will meet with you.

They will talk with you about where you would like to live.





They will decide what you need and where is the best place for you to live.

You can learn more about the different new homes later in the book.

Where I will live?

Some children may go home to live with their families.



Some children may live in foster care with a foster family.



All the children in the institutions will move into new homes. **No one will be left behind.**



Some children may go and live in a small group home.



Some children may be adopted and live with their new family.



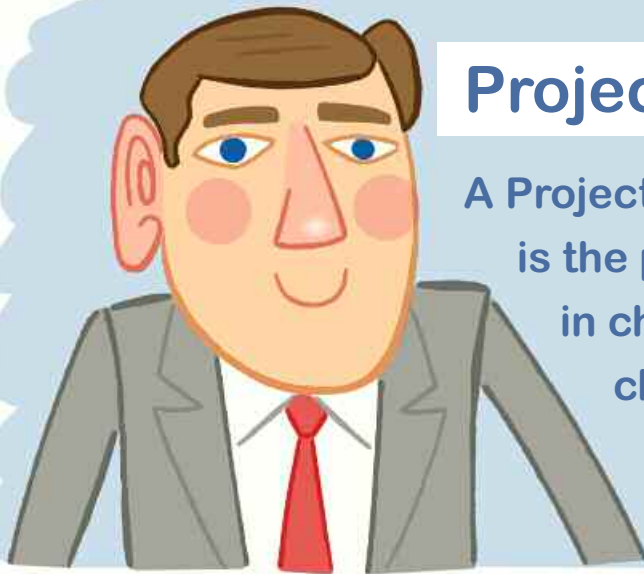
The Project Team

These are the people who will support you...



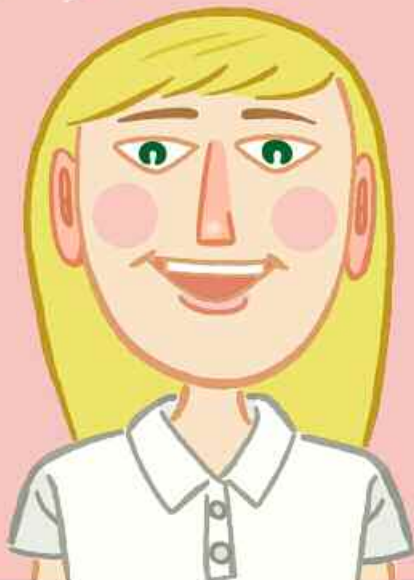
Social Worker

A Social Worker is a person who helps children and families. They will visit you in your new home to make sure you have everything you need.



Project Manager

A Project Manager is the person in charge of closing the institution.



Physiotherapist

A Physiotherapist is a person who teaches special exercises to children who have physical disabilities.



You can talk to them if you want to know more or have any worries.

Speech and Language

Therapist

A Speech and Language Therapist is a person who helps children who have problems with communicating.



Psychologist

A Psychologist is a person who helps children who need extra support.



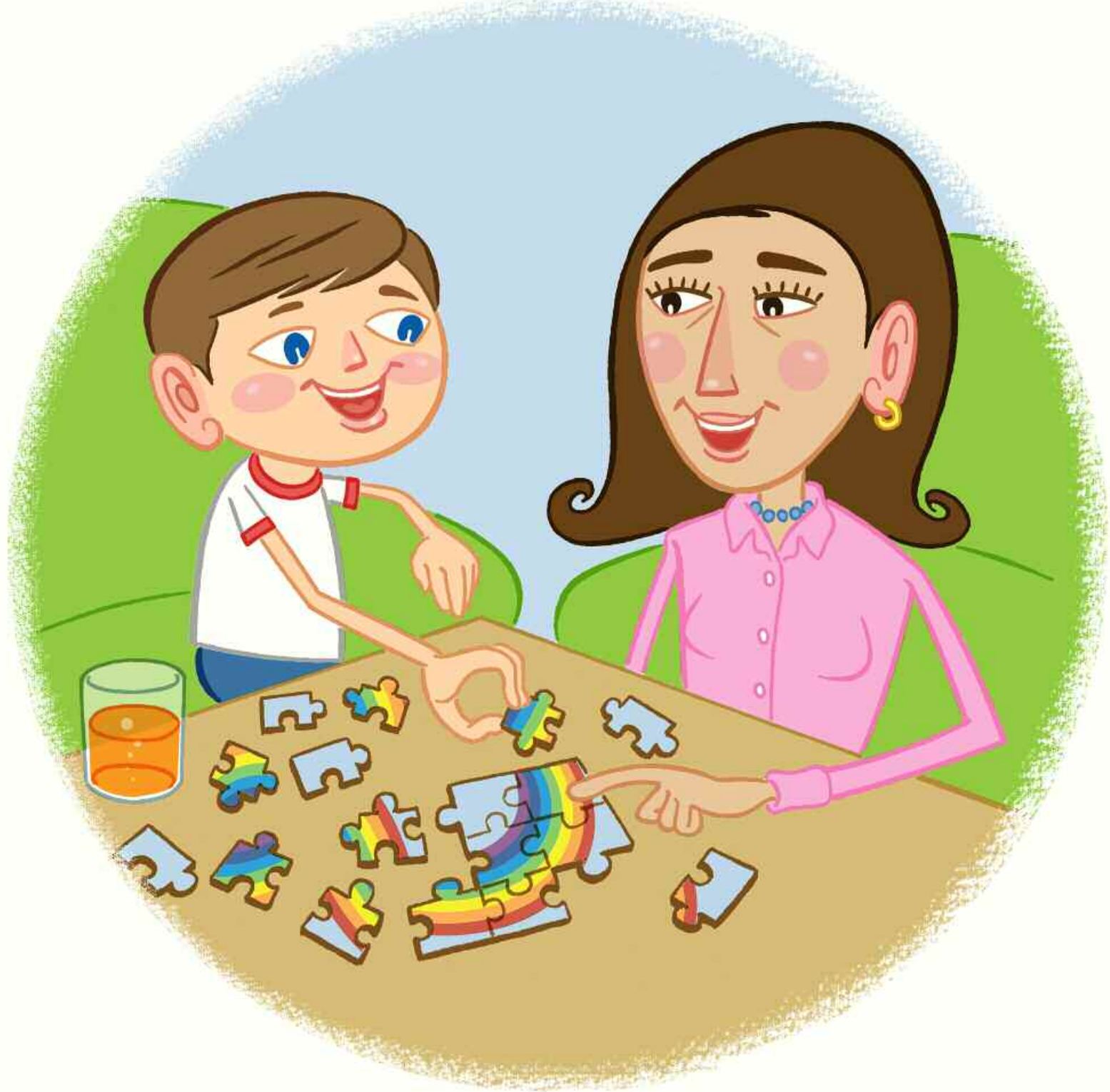
Carer

Your Carer will also help you to get ready to move to your new house.



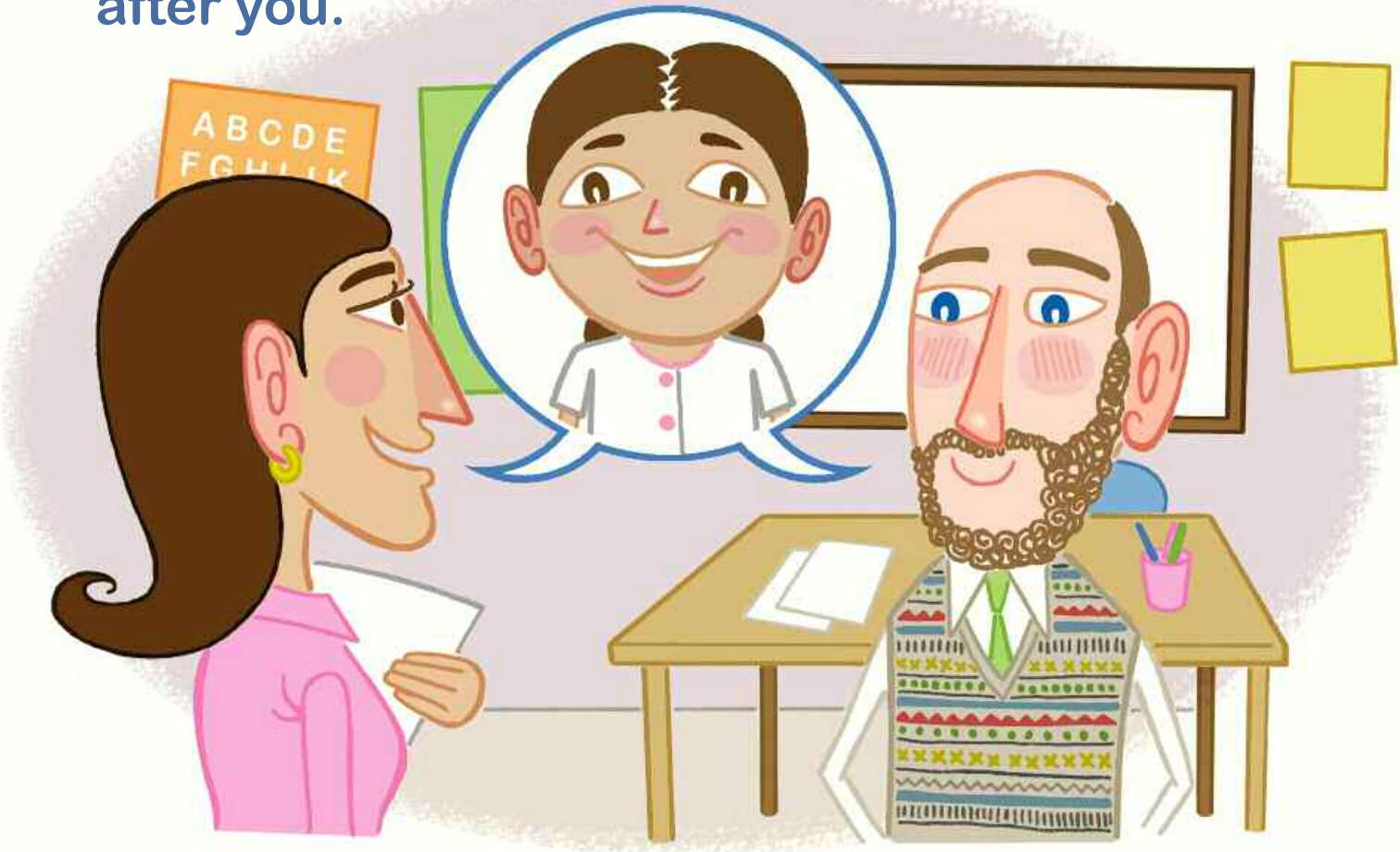
What happens next...

The project team will talk to you to find out more about you. They will talk to you about what you think. They will ask you what you want.



This is called an **assessment**.

They will also talk to other people who look after you.



They will visit and talk with your family.



Things I want to tell the **project team** about me...





After the Assessment, everyone has a meeting called a **Case Conference**.



The people who know you best will go to this meeting.

You may be able to go to this meeting if you want to.



In the meeting everyone will talk about where is the best place for you to live.

Do I want to go the **case conference meeting**?



Yes No

Who I want to go to the meeting with me...



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What I want to say at the meeting...



What was decided at the case conference meeting?



Where I will live...

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Who I will live with...

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When I will move...

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Where I will go to school...

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What support I will need in my new home...

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What support I will need to get ready to move...

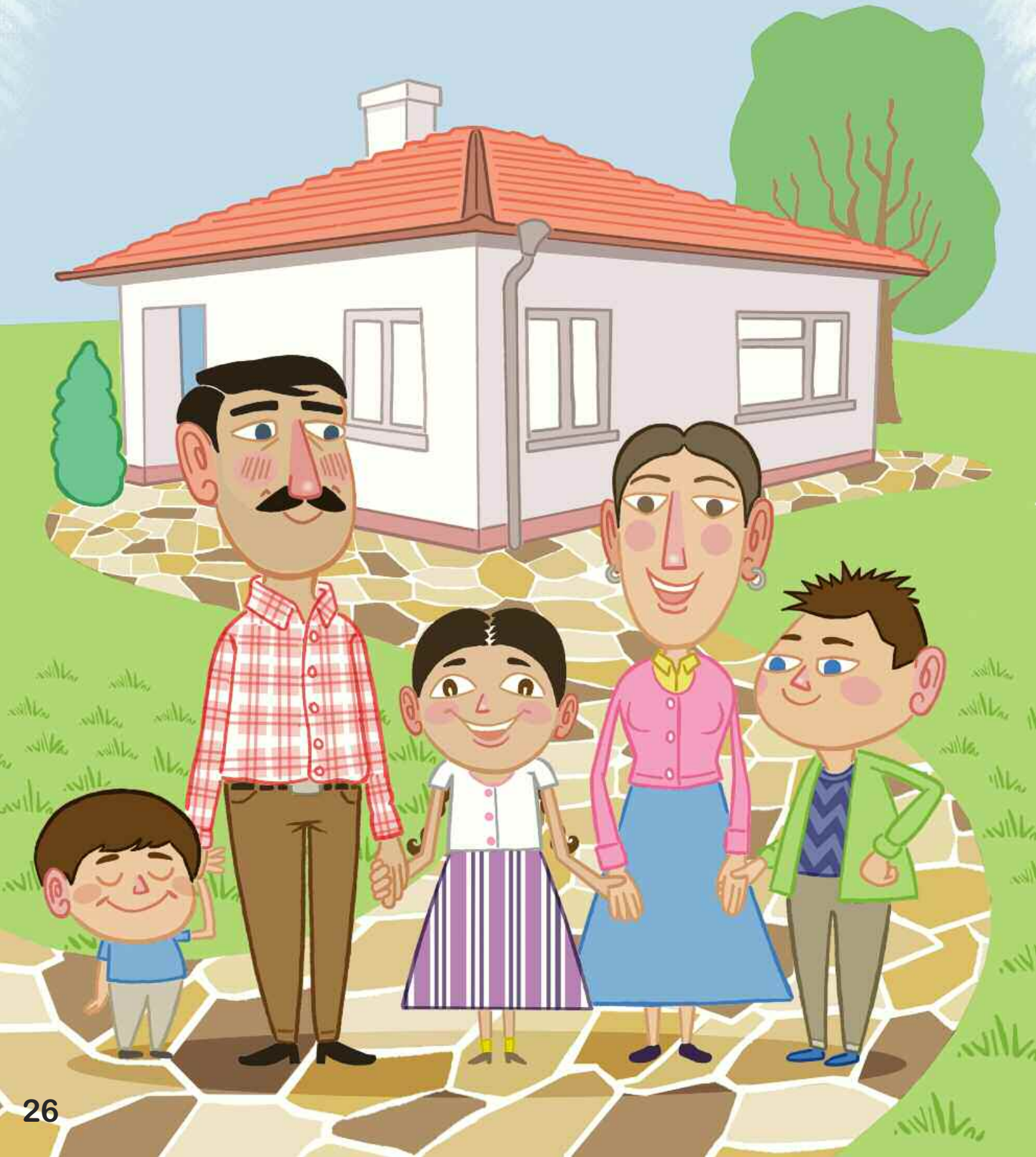
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About the new homes...

Some children will be able to go and live with their family. They may live with their parents.



Some children may be able to live with their brother or sister. They may live with a grandparent or auntie or uncle.



The Social Worker will make sure that you and your family are ready for you to go home.

Some children will not be able to live with their families. Although parents may love their children, they are not always able to look after them.



They can still love their children and want the best for them. Your Social Worker will talk to you about your family.

What is foster care?

Foster care is when you live with a foster carer in their own home. They have been specially chosen to look after you.



The foster carer may have other children or family living in the home. Some children will live there for a short time. Some children may live there for a long time.

Their job is to take good care of you. They will make sure you have everything you need.

In foster care...

You may have your own room.



You can take all
your things with you.

Your family can visit you there if this is the best thing for you.

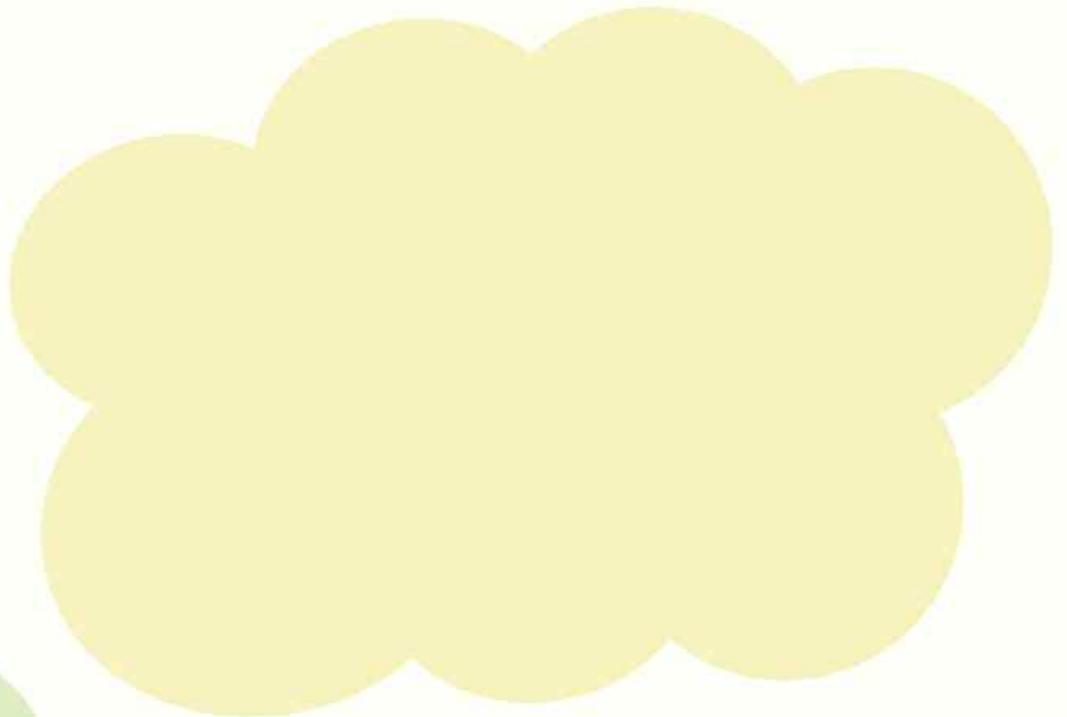
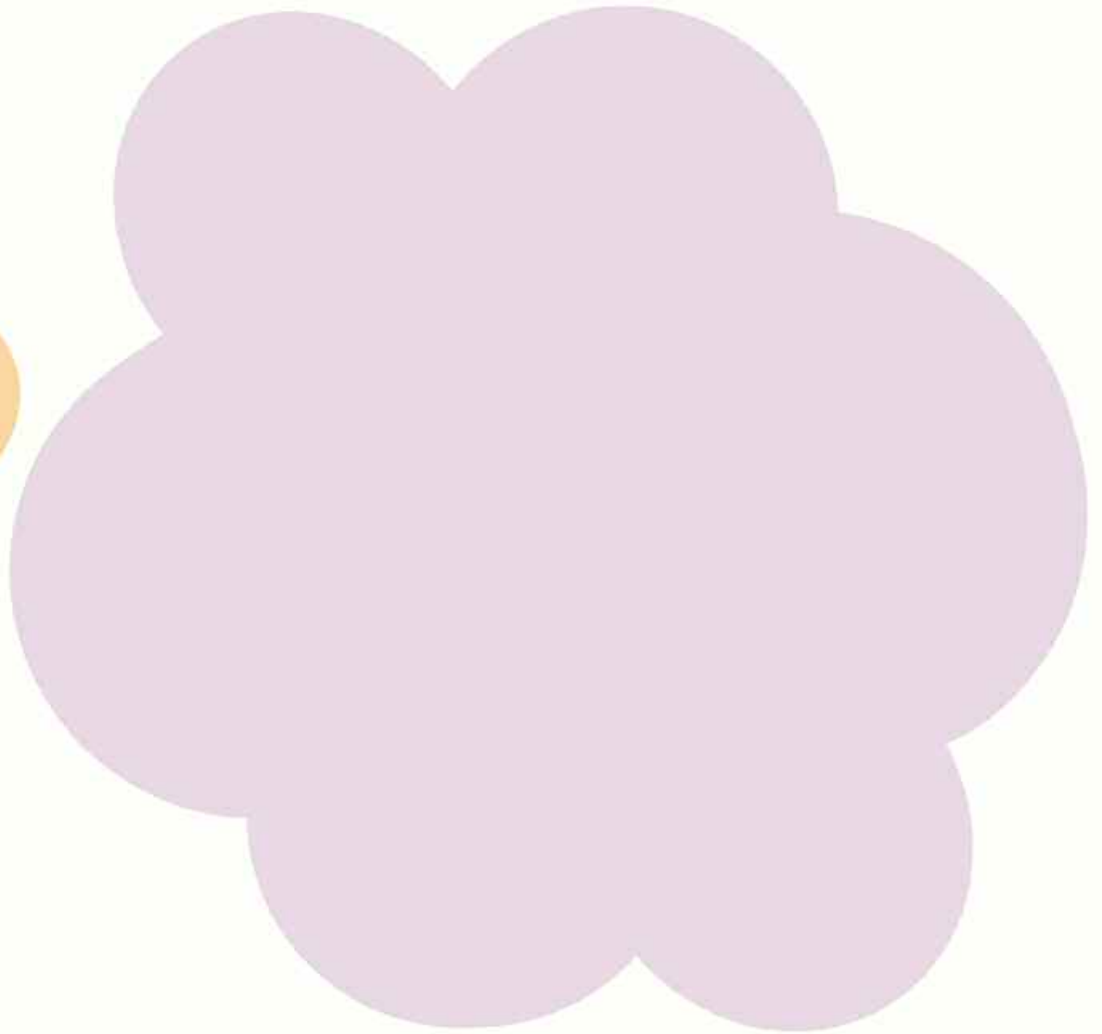


You will get to know your foster carer well before you go and live there.



Things I want to know about my **foster carer...**





The person I would like to talk to about my new foster carer is:

.....

What is a small group home?

A small group home is a home where you will live with about other children.



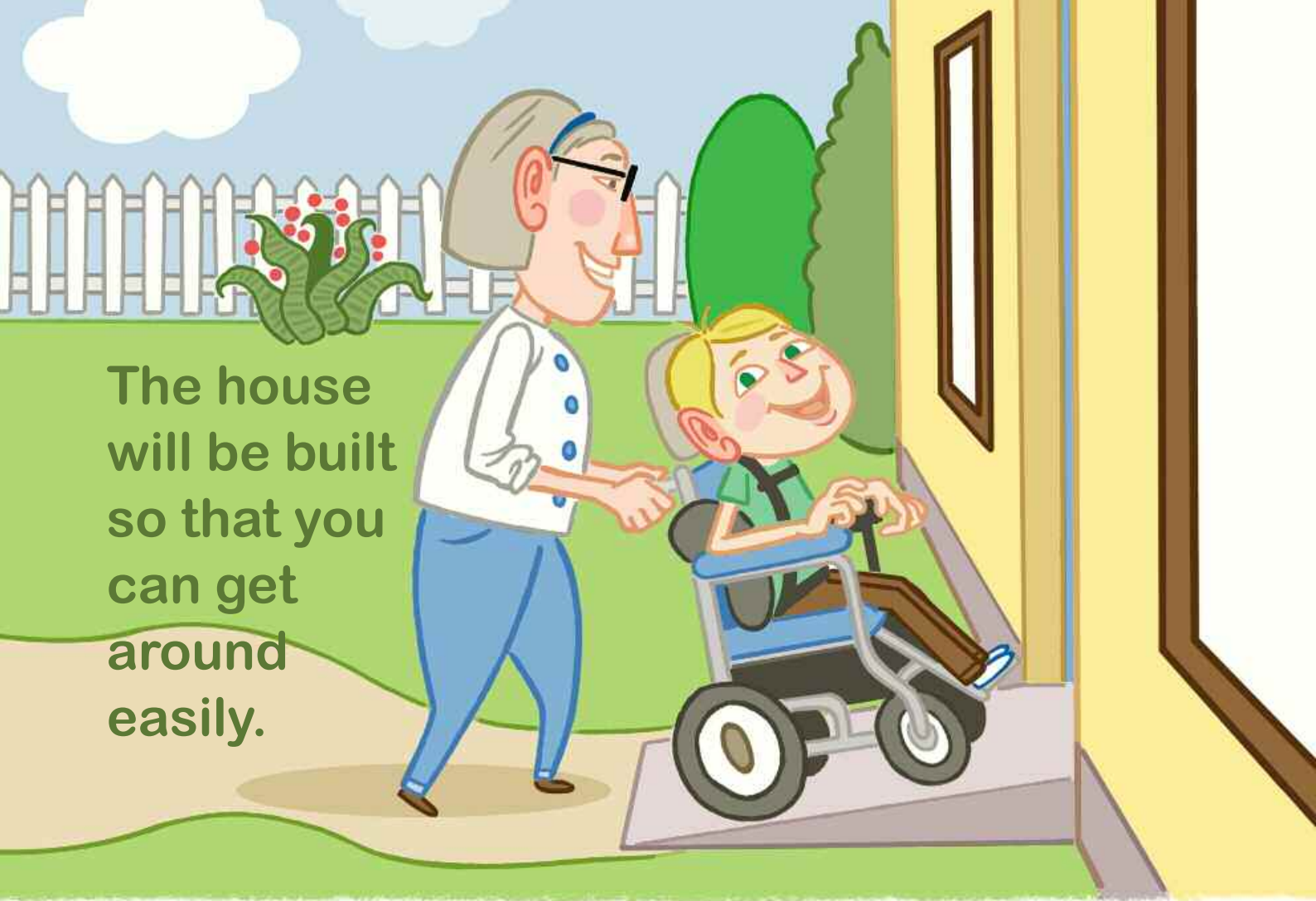
Some of your friends from the institution may live with you there.

**Carers will look after you
in the home.**



**Some of the carers from the institution may
come with you to the new home.**

The house will be built so that you can get around easily.



The house will be in a street in the community.



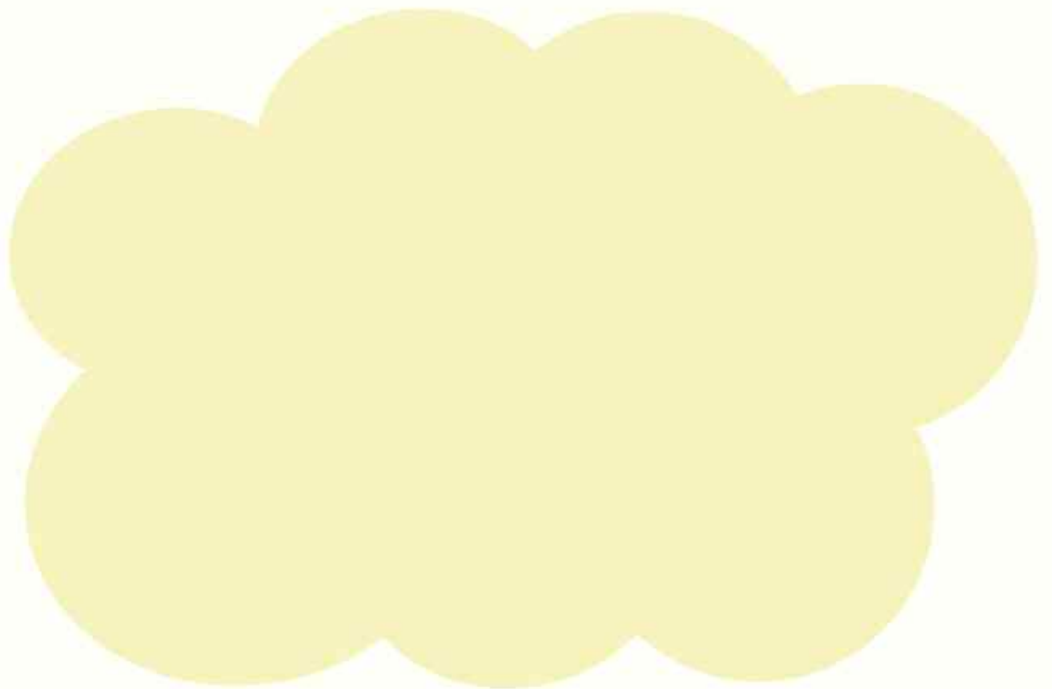
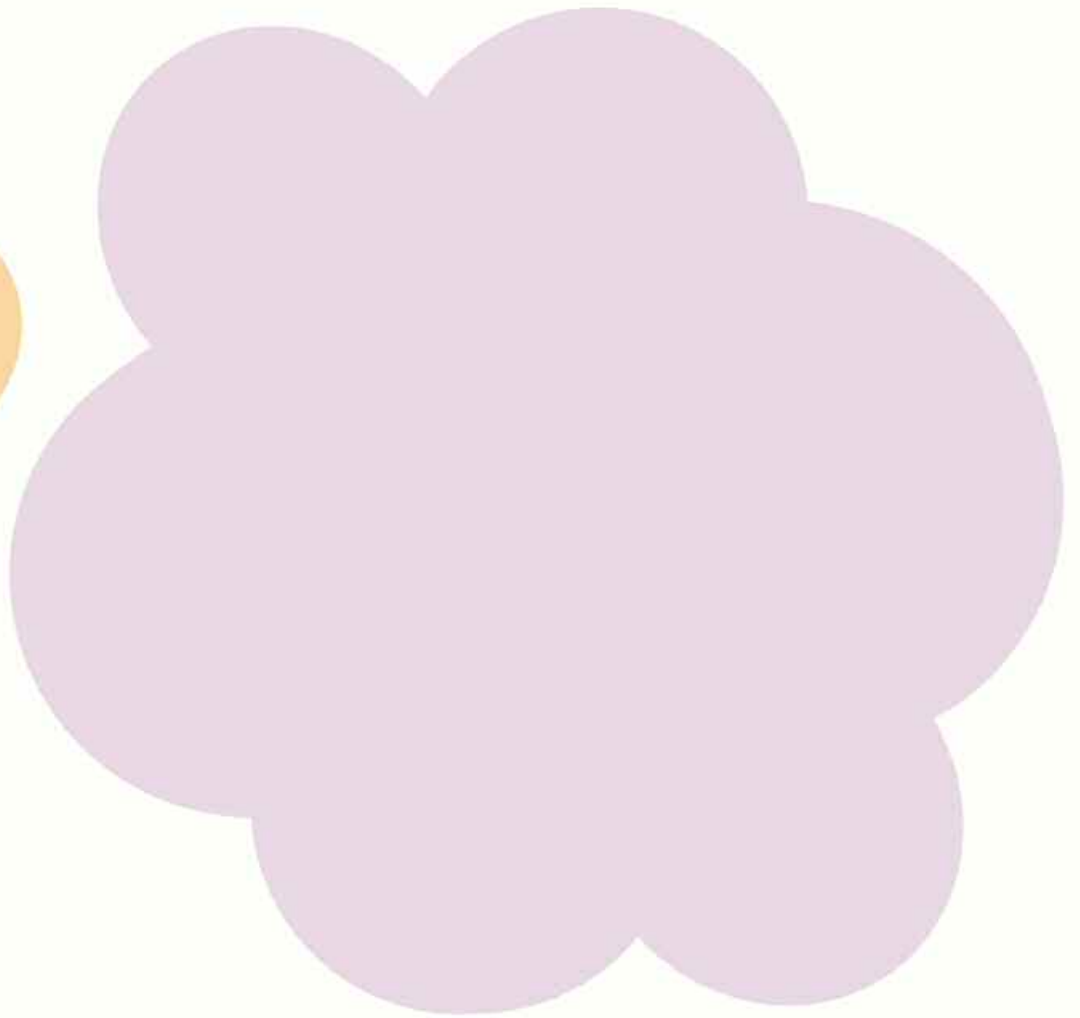
You can take all your things with you to your new home.



Your family can visit you if it is the best thing for you.

Things I want to know about my
small group home...



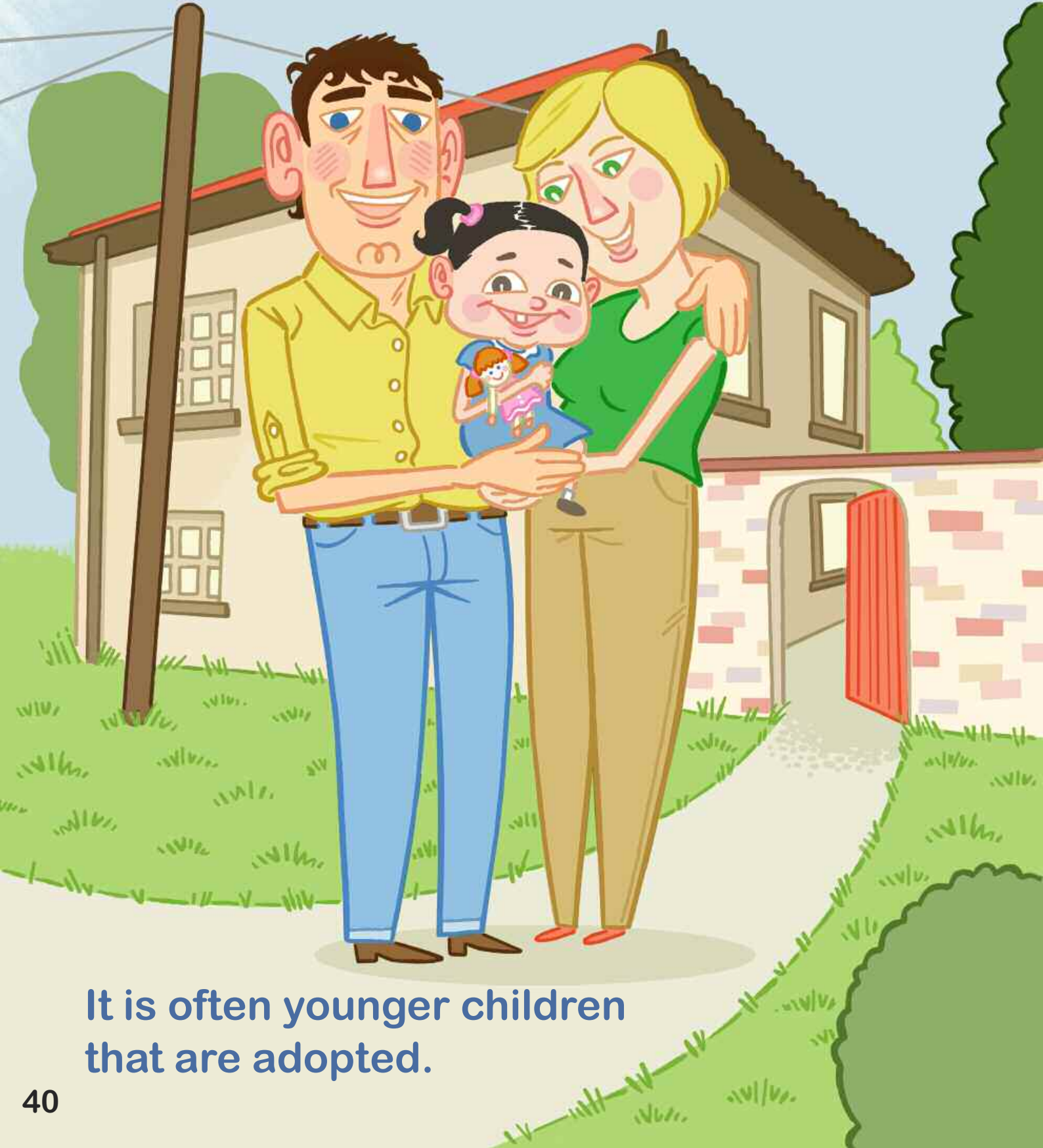


The person I would like to talk to about my new small group home is:

.....

What is adoption?

Some children who don't see their families may be adopted. This means that a new family will be chosen for you.



It is often younger children that are adopted.

If you are adopted...

You may have your own room. You can take all your things with you.

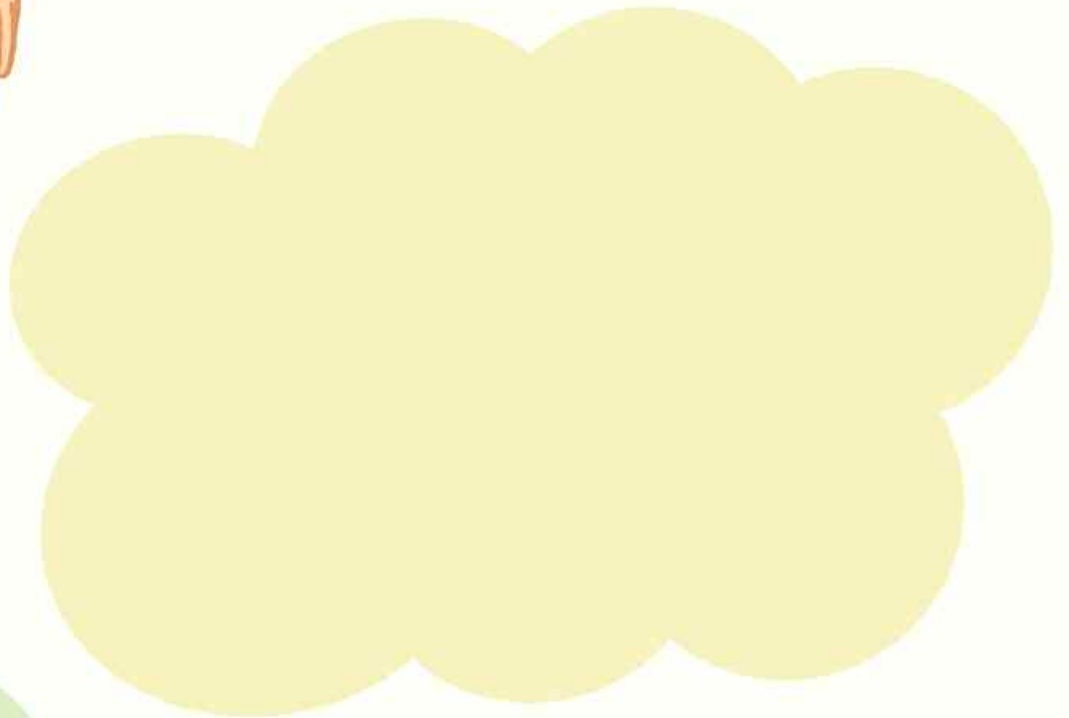
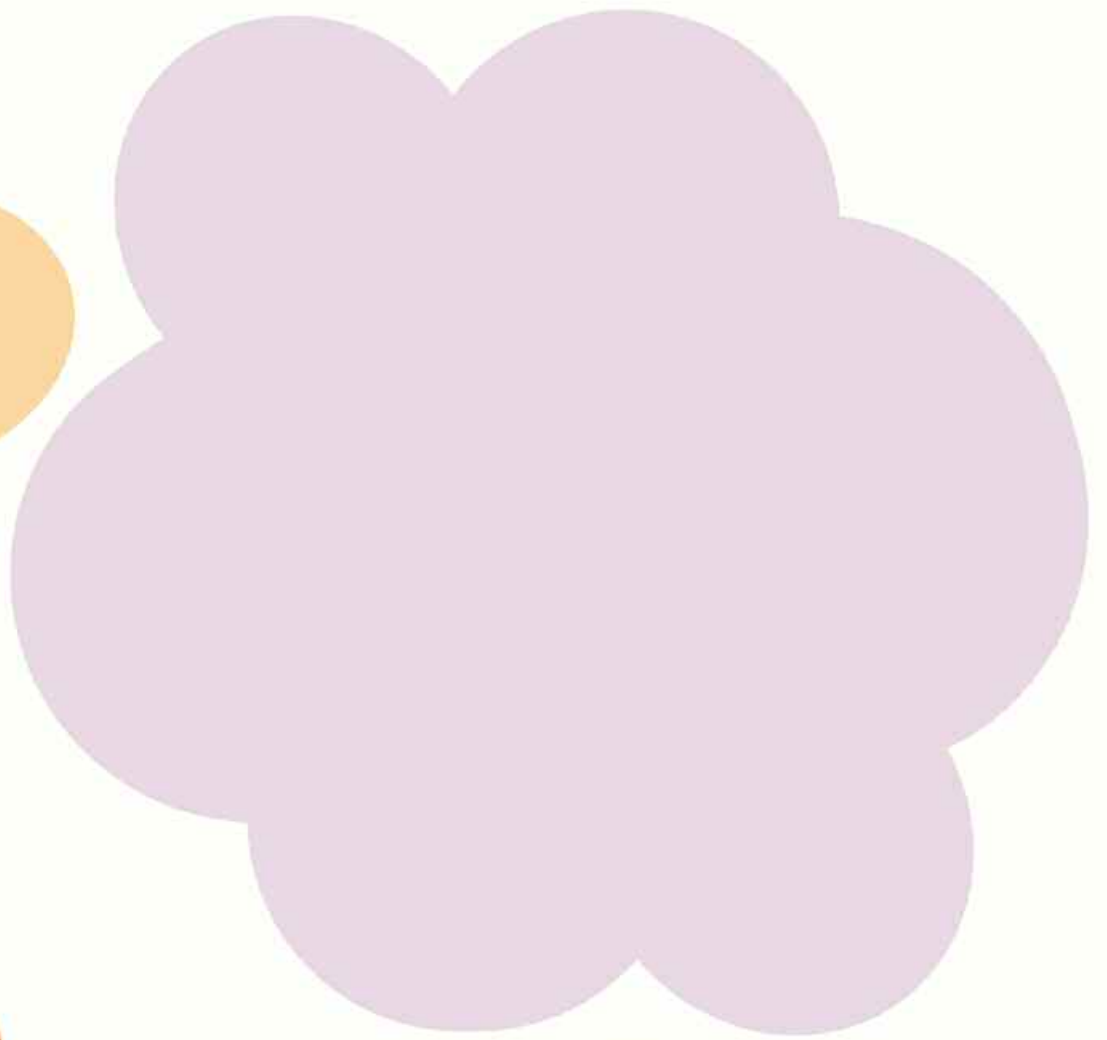


You will live with your new family until you are grown up. You will get to know your new family before you move.



Things I want to know about my
adoptive family...



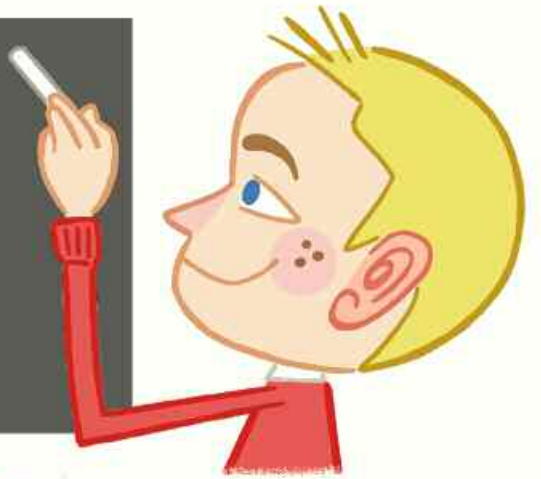


The person I would like to talk to about my new family is:



Going to school

When you move into your new home, you will go to a new school near where you live...



Some children will go to a mainstream school.



Some children will go to a mainstream school that has extra support.

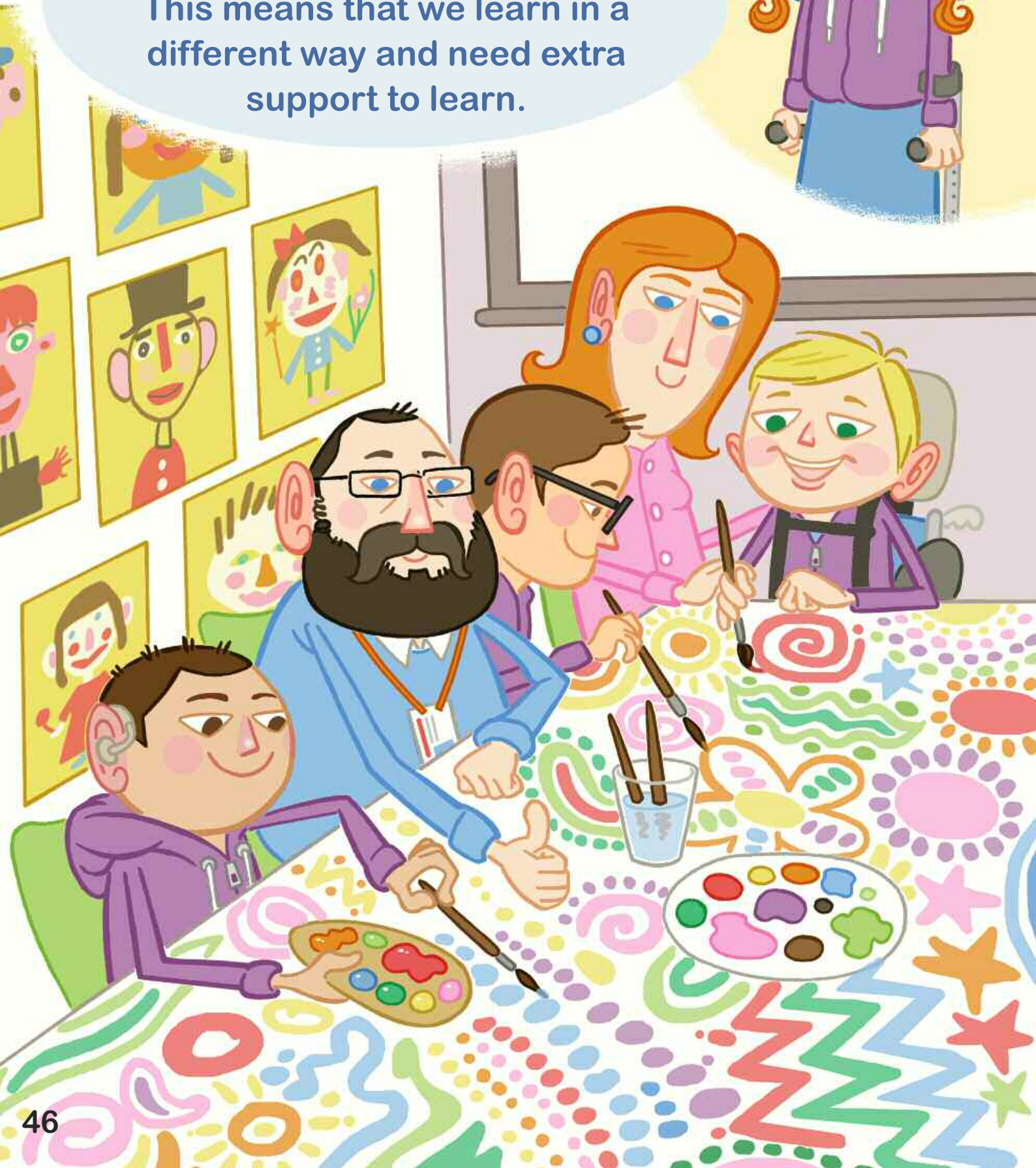


Some children will go to a special school.



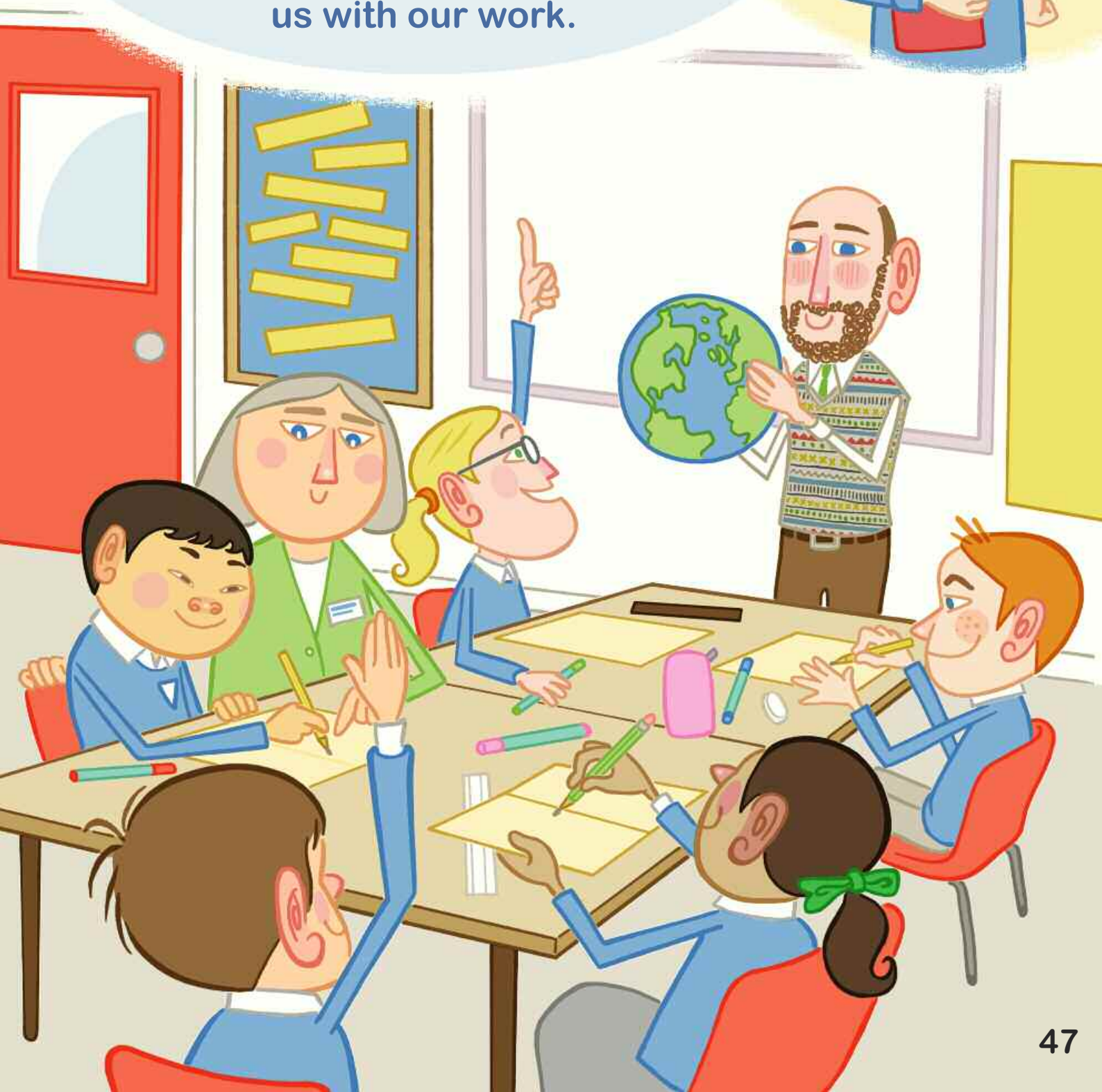
About a special school

In a special school
all the children have a disability.
This means that we learn in a
different way and need extra
support to learn.



About a mainstream school that has extra support

In a mainstream school children with and without disabilities all mix together. We have a support teacher who helps us with our work.



Getting ready to move

The project team will help you get ready to move into your new home.



You should be able to spend time getting to know your new carers.





You should be able to visit your new home if it is near.

Everyone's plan for moving will be different. The next pages talk about some of the different activities you may do to help you get ready to move. **Everyone will move into one of these homes.**

Getting ready to move home

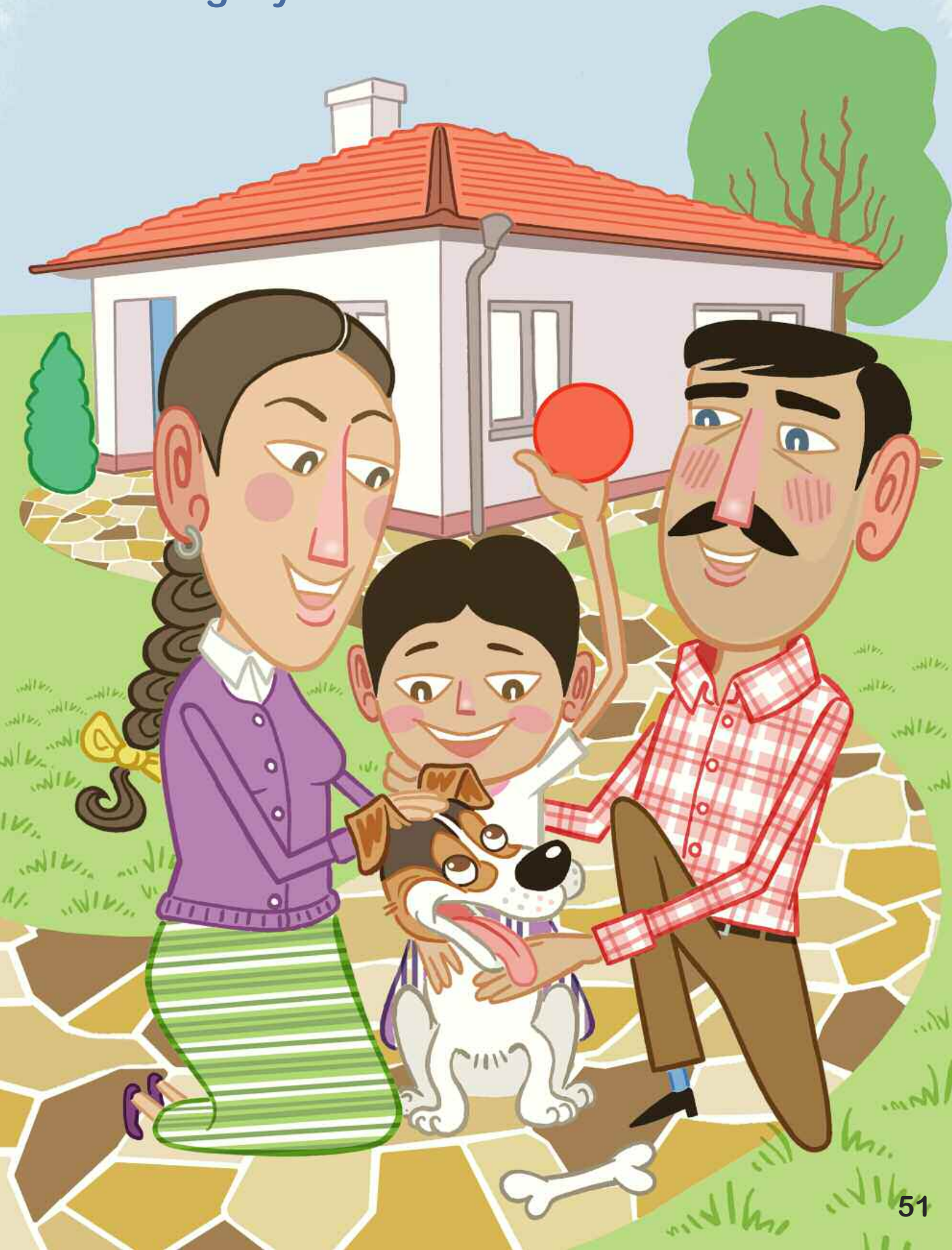
Visiting my new school.



Spending time with my family.



Visiting my home.



Getting ready to move into foster care

Getting to know my foster carer.



Saying goodbye to my friends in the care home.



Visiting my new home.



Getting ready to move to a small group home

Getting my new room ready.



Playing with my friends.



Getting to know my new carers.



Getting ready to be adopted

Learning about my new adoptive parents.



Getting to know my new family.



Getting to know my new family
at my new home.



Tick list of things I need to do to get ready to move.



Make a memory book about the institution.



Take photos of my friends.



Visit my new home.





Have a party to say goodbye.



You could write some more ideas about things you would like to do here...



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Moving to my new home

The project team and carers will help you pack all your things to take to your new home.



They will go with you on the first day to the new home.



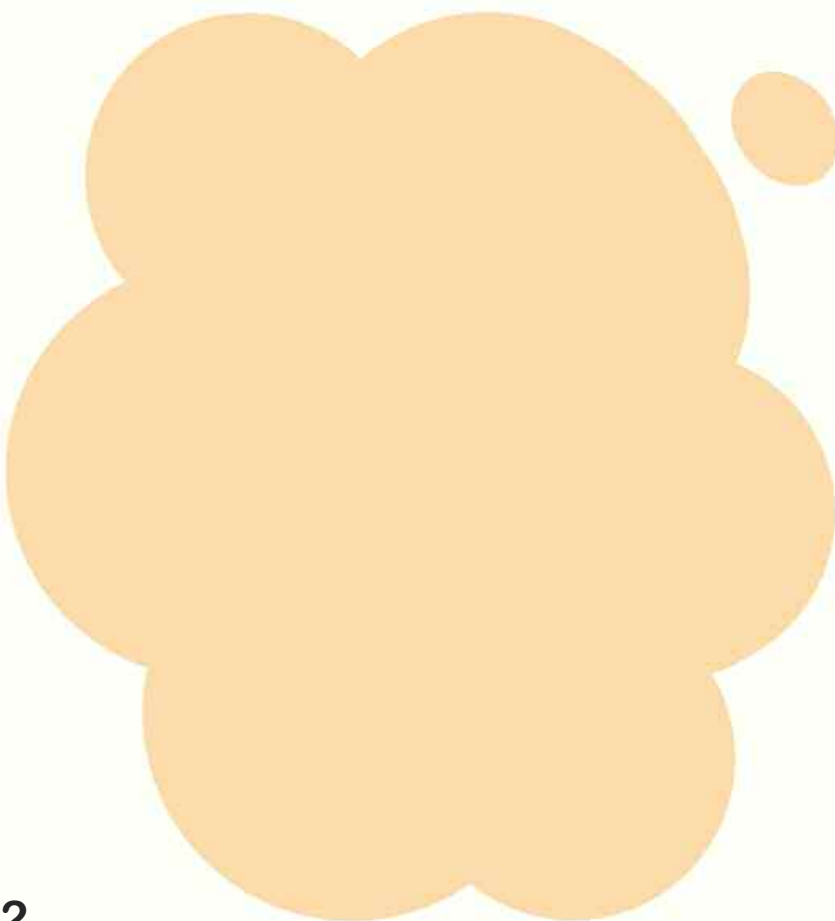
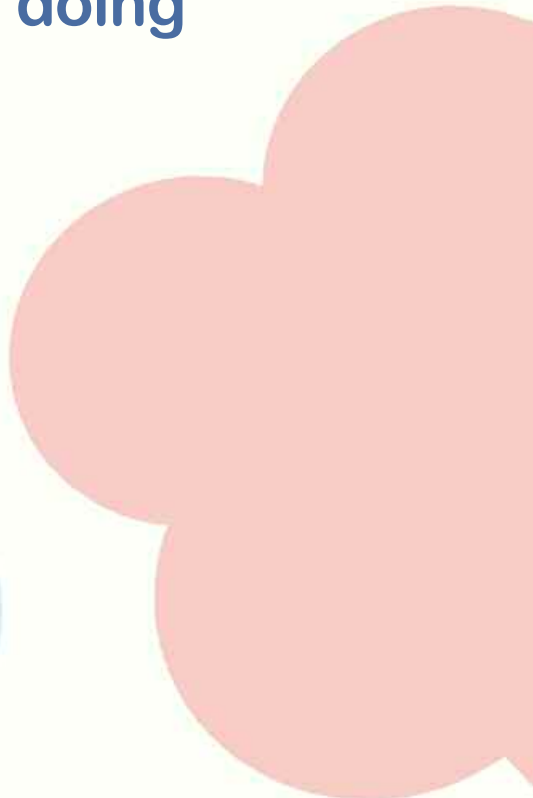
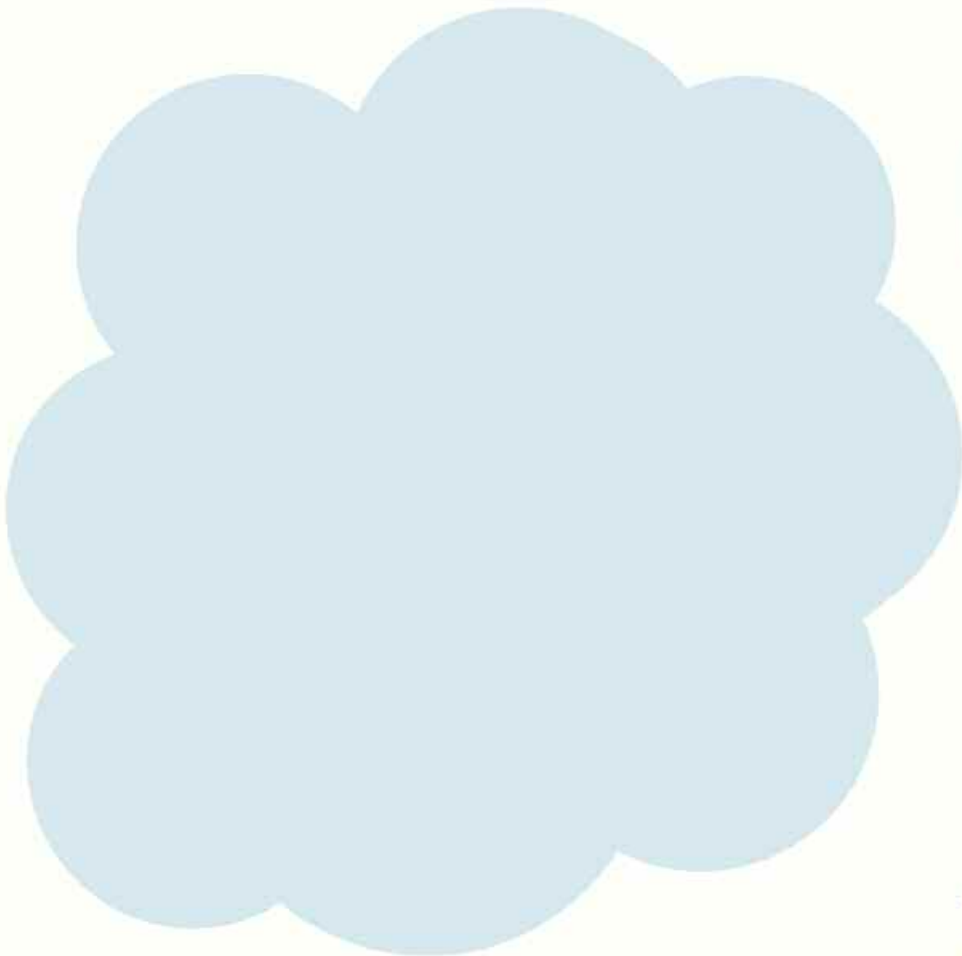
The social worker will visit you in your home.

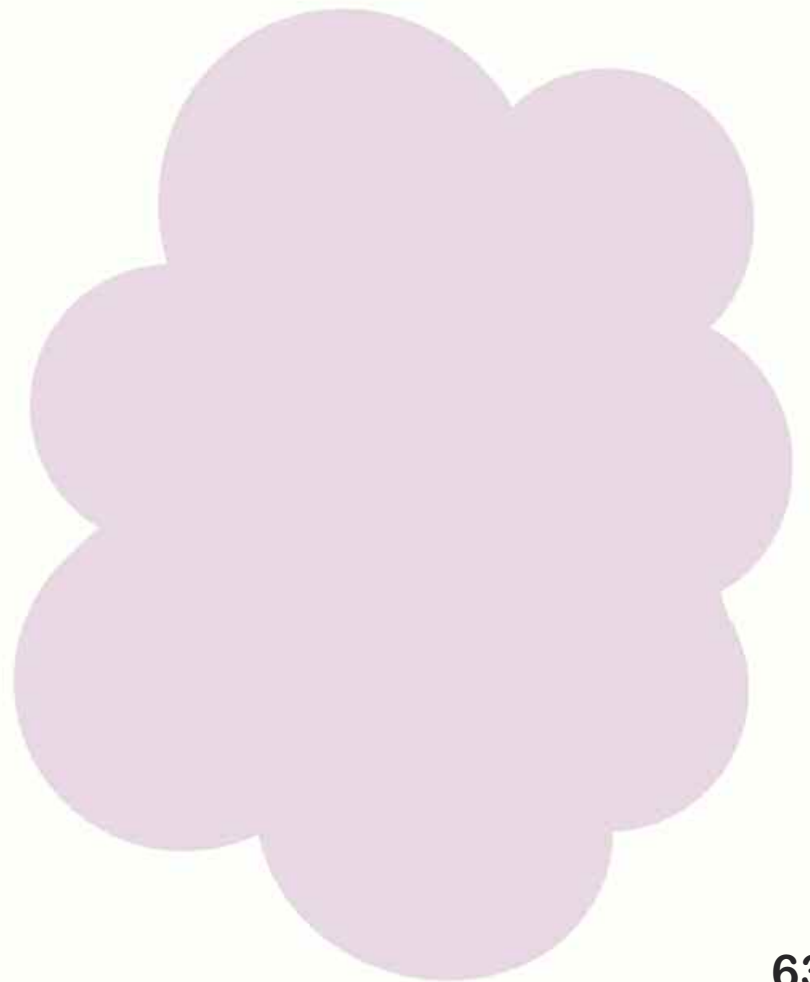
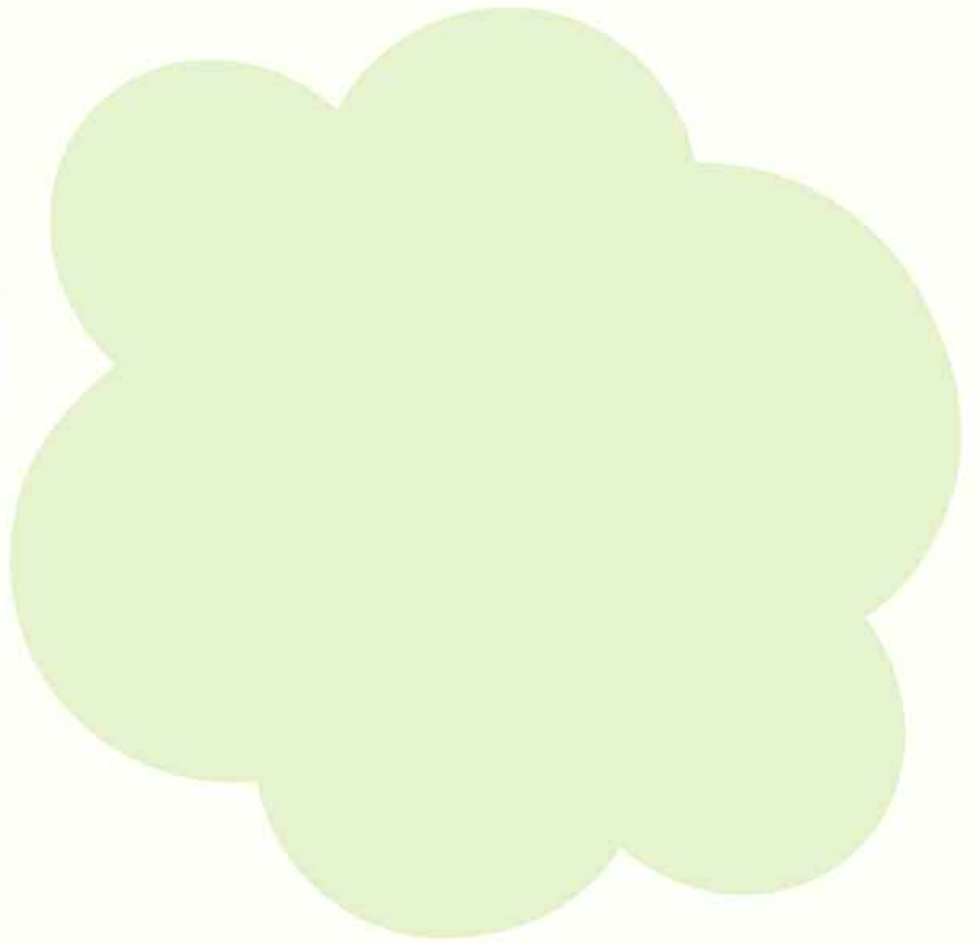


Her job is to make sure you are well cared for in your new home.



Things I am looking forward to doing
in my new home...





The people you live with should always care for you well and keep you safe.



Social Worker



Carer

These are the people who you can talk to if you are worried or unhappy. Their job is to help make sure you are well cared for and safe.

Project Manager



New Carer





Contacts Pages



Name:

Phone:



Name:

Phone:



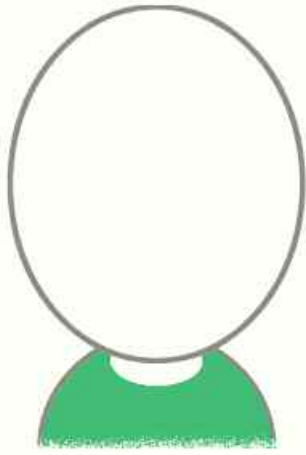
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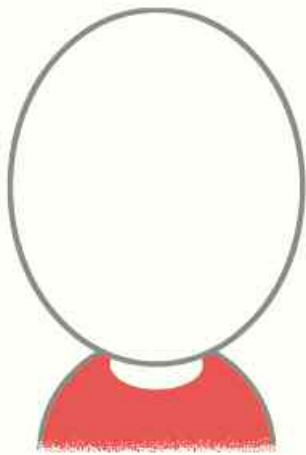
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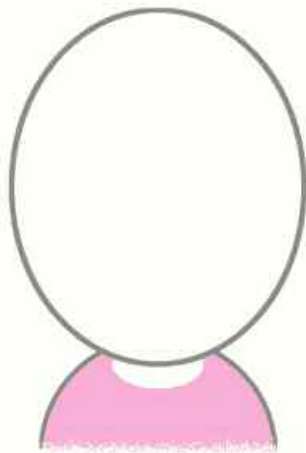
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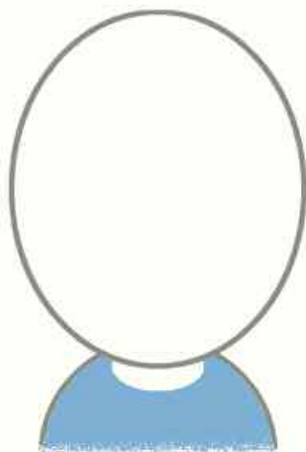
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**We hope you
enjoy living in your
new home!**





Word Bank

Some of the words used in this book might be hard to understand. Here you can read about what they mean.



Adoption

Some children who don't see their families may be adopted. This means a new family is chosen for them. Children live with an adoptive family until they are grown up.



Assessment

Finding out about you, what you want and where the best place is for you to live.



Carer

A person whose job it is to look after you.

Case Conference

A meeting to decide the best place for you to live. The meeting will talk about what support you will need.



Communicate

Talking and other ways that help people understand you, such as using pictures.



Community

The people and the place where you live.



Foster Carer

A person who has been chosen to look after children who can't live with their own family. Sometimes children live with a foster carer for a short time, sometimes for a long time.



Institution

A very big care home. The children who live there are looked after by carers.

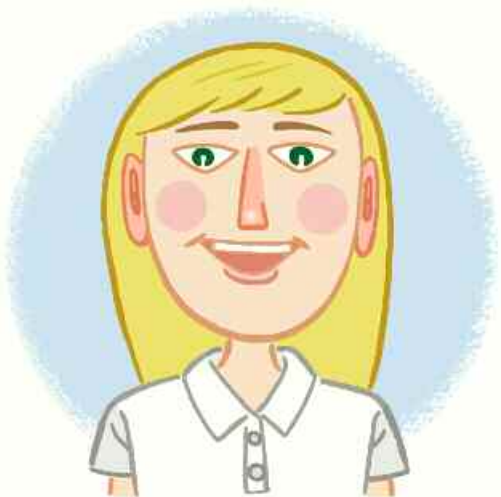
Mainstream School

A day school in the community.



Psychologist

A person whose job it is to help children that need extra support with how they are feeling.



Physiotherapist

A person whose job it is to teach special exercises to children who have physical disabilities. They help children with the way their bodies move.



Memory Book about the institution

A book which you can make to remind you about the institution. You can write or draw pictures and put photographs in the book.

Project Team

A group of people who will close the institution and help you get ready to move to your new home.



Project Manager

The person in charge of closing the institution.



Small group home

This is a small home in the community. A group of children live together here and are looked after by carers.



Social Worker

A person whose job it is to help children and families.



Special School

A school where all the children have a disability and need extra support to help them learn.



Speech and Language Therapist

A person whose job it is to help children to communicate.



You can use the next few pages for drawing or writing!

Acknowledgements







We would like to thank all the children and adults who helped us to write this book.

They grew up in institutions and gave us lots of very good ideas about what to include in the book. A big thank you to the children who helped:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
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|  Serghei |  Livia |  Jaclin |
|  Igor |  Ecaterina |  Olesea |
|  Olesea |  Alexandru |  Gheorghe |
|  Alina |  Alina | |

And another big thank you to the adults who helped:

-  **Milos Nguyen**
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-  **Michael Ďord'**



About Lumos

Lumos is a children's charity set up by JK Rowling who wrote the Harry Potter books.

We work in many different countries across the world. We are helping governments to close their large institutions and set up better services which help children and their families.

Lumos thinks that it is very important that children understand and have a say about the changes that will happen to them during the time the institution is closing.

We have written this book for children to help them prepare for moving out of their institution and into their new homes.

2014

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**This book
is for children who
are living in institutions
which will be closing.**

**The book talks about what
changes will happen
during the time the
institution is
closing.**

