

HOW KIDS EXPLORE the world

conceived, written,
and illustrated by
AEVI (age 9)

How Kids

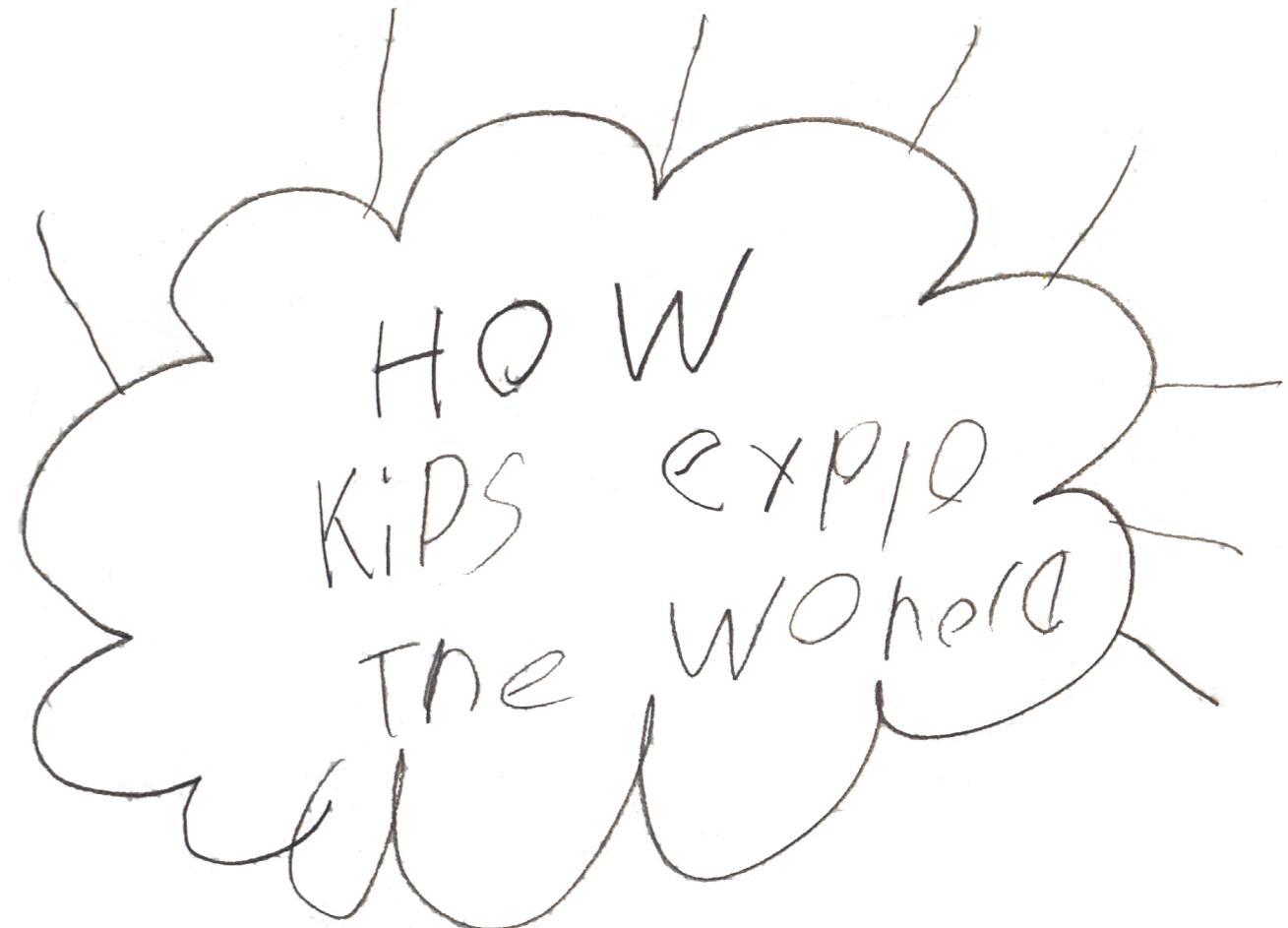
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Explore

the World

WORKS ON PROGRESS

is a series of books created by children in which the author's own pedagogical process of understanding the world/word(s) informs the narrative and structure of the work. Produced to a high standard, each volume is heavily illustrated and makes an original and significant contribution to research in its field.



Conceived, Written, and Illustrated by

Aevi Nakai Gluzman (age 9)

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ALREADY NOT YET

2020

PRE-TEXT (FOR GROWN UPS WHO MAY NEED THEM)

One day when Aevi was six, I was reading a book by Jean Piaget, the famous psychologist known for his work on children's cognitive development. It occurred to me that it would be interesting to read Piaget with Aevi to see how an actual six year old would understand and respond to a theory claiming to explain how children understand and respond to the world. So that evening, I asked Aevi if we could read Piaget's "The Construction of Reality in the Child" as his bedtime story. He said okay, and so we began. After a couple of trials we settled on a routine: I would read a passage, to which Aevi would respond by explaining what he understood or what he thought; if there was something he could not understand, he would ask questions and I would try my best to explain. Once he got the hang of it, Aevi had indeed a lot to say against Piaget: "No, me and my friends don't think like that!" "No, actually six year olds can do that!" "Why is this guy so mean? He doesn't understand kids!" and so on. I recorded our conversation and began thinking about what kind of output could be derived from this lovely exercise.

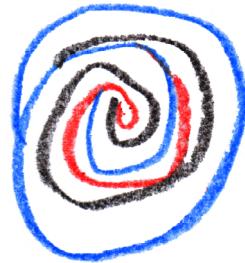
My first thought was to ask Aevi to write a book report, but I could see how that would be difficult since the six year old was just learning to write simple sentences and spell words correctly. I then spent a considerable amount of time trying to think of other ways to record the process but somehow nothing seemed to work. Enjoying the experience but not knowing what to do with it, our Piaget reading sessions reached a halt after a couple of weeks. We moved on to other books and forgot about our experiment.

Three years later, we had moved to Tokyo. As Aevi immersed himself in Japanese in his daily life, I began to feel that he should be routinely exposed to English books to not forget the language. So I decided to resume our Piaget readings. This time he was obviously a more seasoned reader, but his response was not so different from last time. He still disagreed with most of what the psychologist had to say about how children of his age understood the world. I asked him to write a book report. He reluctantly agreed but never got around to actually do it.

A couple of months went by. One day in early 2020, Aevi came into my room and told me that he was going to write a book about "How Kids Explore the World" based on his own experience. He showed me the title sign and the table of contents that he had drafted. It was going to be a present for his small brother We (aka Oui), who was expected to be born later that year. I was not sure how much of this was in reaction to his exposure to Piaget but felt it was his way of responding. And the more I thought about it, the more struck I became by the ingenuity of this response. It was indeed a perfect form of output for our little pedagogical experiment that did not occur to me: a theory of how children understand the world conceived by a child as a gift for another child.

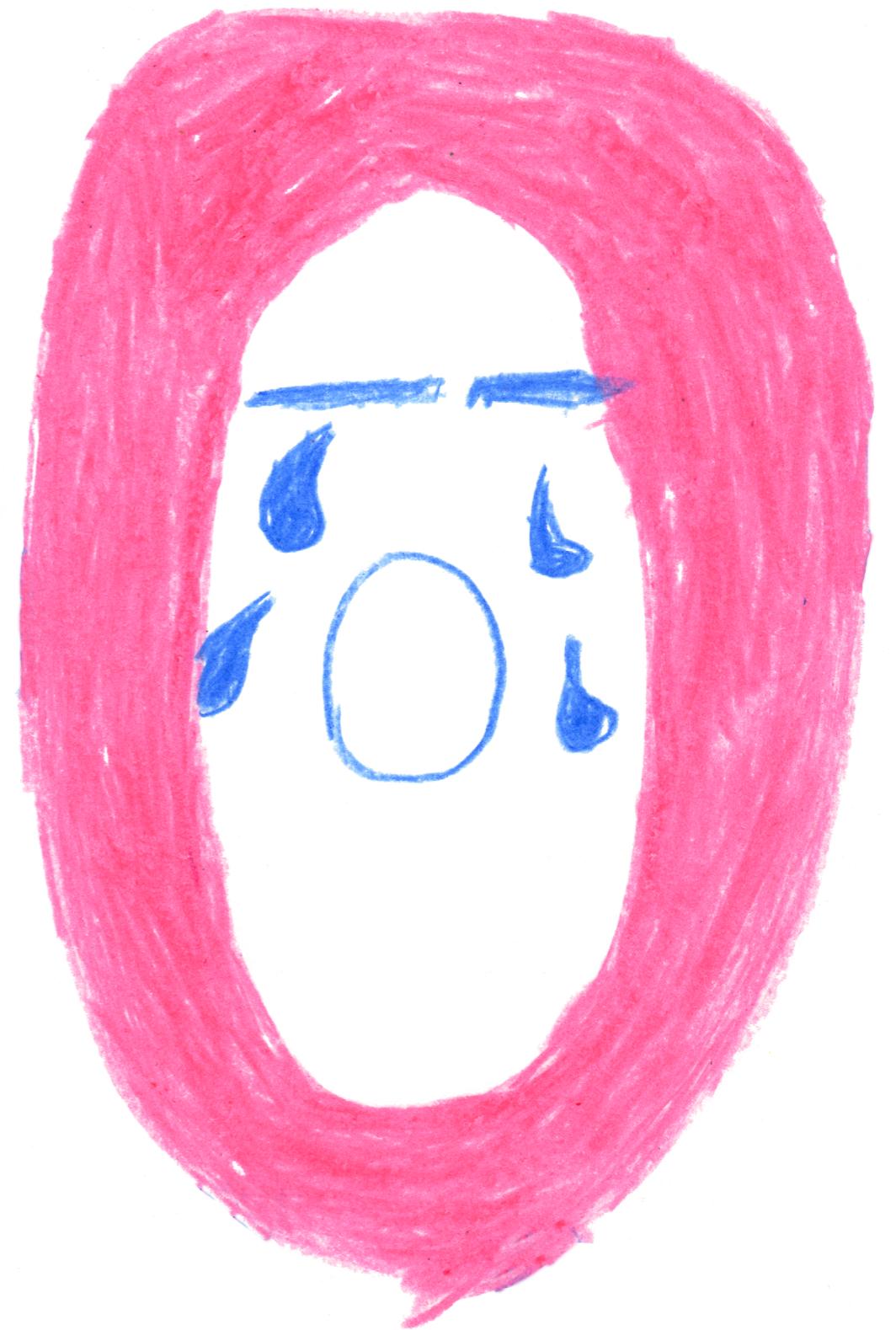
You Nakai

to my loving brother,
we



0さい	1さい	2さい	3さい	4さい	5さい	6さい	7さい	8さい
life is a dream	Pre School	Friend Whine	looking Back	ByeBye Pre School	Hi NUW friend	COMPLICATED	most hard grade	
when AM I?	Wond	Explor Tolet	reading	hi kinder fashion	NEW AND HOME	DONT now work		
CANT remember	yes!	NO Dher Alphabet	MAD!	Nice Works GOOD AND BAD	Y?	Brag		
life?	NO!	life!	Bed rule	Spelling	1Ghodet	2Ghodet	After school	
9	10	11	12					
fine	Alone 1	Alone 2	Alone 3					
Alone	OMG	BAD Thig						
MY Prene frINDS	Smart on DLM							
4Ghodet	MOMe (haze)							







life is a dream

you probably don't remember
what it was like when you were born,
but i remember so i will tell you.

it goes like this:

when you are 0 years old you think everything is a dream.

you think your life is a dream!

well now you're thinking that i am telling a lie.

but no i am not.

let me tell you something else.

i told you that when you are 0 years old
you think everything is a dream.

and sometimes you forget your dreams!

i will tell you why that is.

a dream is normally a recent thing.

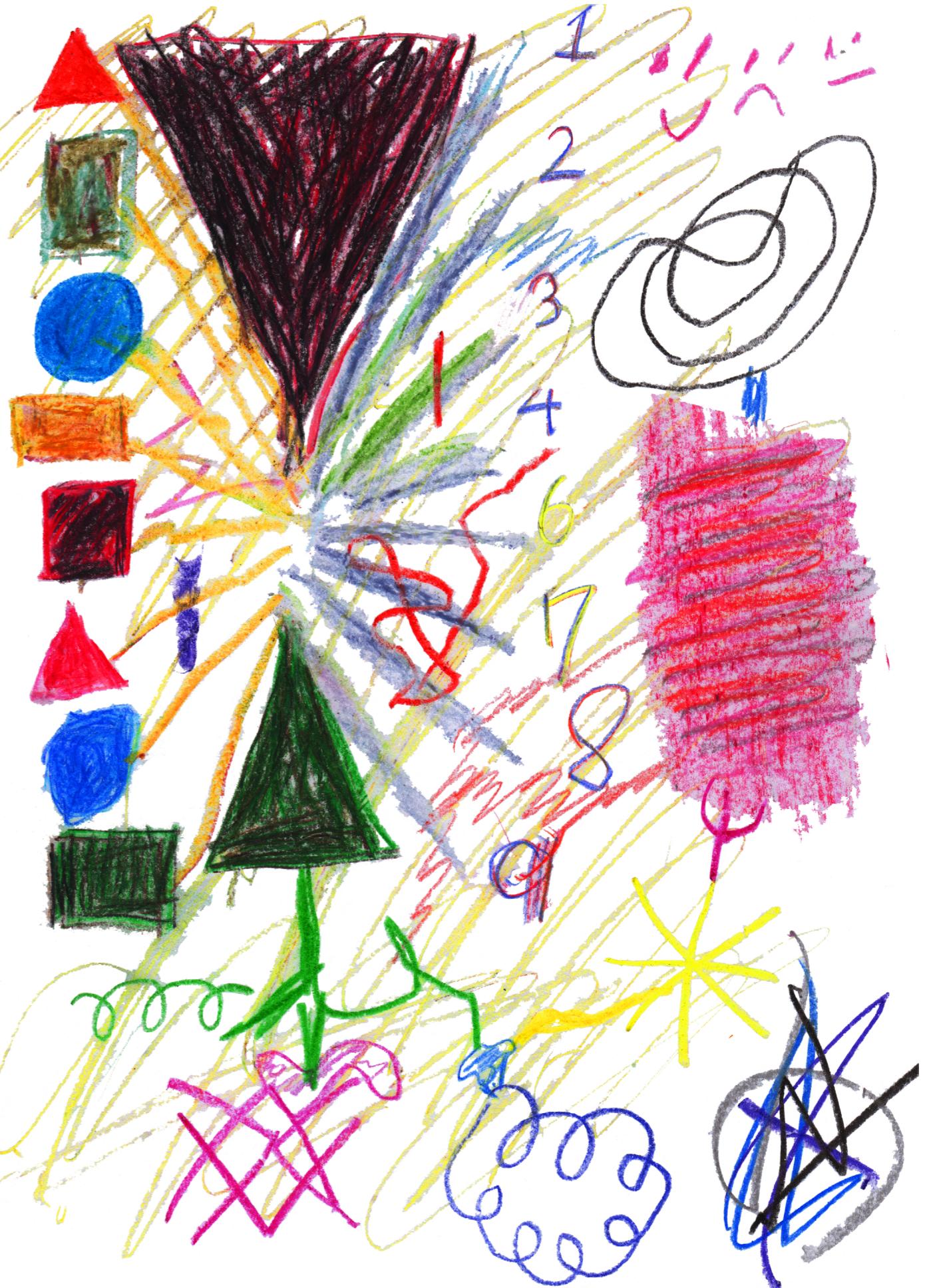
you often can't remember a dream from some time ago,
can you?

don't think so.

don't be frustrated!

even i myself can't remember.

so that's why you probably don't remember
what it was like when you were born.





where am i?

i want to tell you about some other things that 0 year olds think.

one thing that you think is "where am i?"

and now you are thinking why it is that you think where am i.

well let me tell you some reasons.

you probably don't want to be in hell or something!

but that is not really why.

wherever you are something different happens.

it goes like this:

you are 4 months old and you are trying to sleep

but then an earthquake happens

and you are thinking which planet this is.

some planets can have earthquakes and some can't.

so that makes it clear that wherever you are

something different happens.

which means that by knowing where you are you can stay safe.

and that makes it clear why 0 year olds think "where am i?"





ATTENTION!

when you are 0 years old you need attention or you will die.

you need attention because

you can't move to run away from danger or to get food.

so you must move other people to get what you need to live.

and the only way you can do that is by getting attention.

to get attention you need to attract people.

most people are attracted to cuteness

or being strong or being famous.

0 year olds get attention by crying and being cute.

some 0 year olds get attention from different things

like being smart or walking before they're supposed to.

people around need to pay attention to 0 year olds

so that they don't die.

for example,

if you don't get attention you might cry too much!

i bet you are thinking about

how a 0 year old can die from crying.

it is because you can choke or get too tired.

when you cry you can't breathe for a couple of seconds, right?

and if you get too tired your heart might stop moving

or your blood pulse might stop!

so now you know that people need to pay attention

to 0 year olds!



0
00

life?

life is so important.

but 0 year olds don't know what life is.

so you don't think life is important.

and maybe when you are 2 years old you will start getting life.

but let's get back to 0 year olds.

when you are 0 years old you play, drink milk, sleep,
and sometimes even think.

and when you are thinking you think about where you are
and that everything is a dream

but you don't know what you are doing
when really you are living.

for example, you are drinking milk and you are thinking.
you are thinking: if i jump off a skyscraper

and hit the ground what will happen.

well of course you are going to die,
but 0 year olds don't know that.

well now you know that 0 year olds don't get life.

i know it is hard to get life because i only get it a tiny bit.
and that means nobody gets life!





1.

daycare

daycare is a place where you stay and have fun!

it is called "daycare" because

you are taken care of almost the whole day!

you need to go to daycare because your parents need to work
and they can't take you with them.

or maybe the parents are just tired and need a break.

daycare is fun because you can play
with other kids or with the teachers all day.

but there are things that you haven't realized.

i will tell you.

you might think that you make friends when you are in daycare.

but actually you are too small to understand
what "friend" even means.

whoever you play with is your friend

which means that you do not have any real friends.

real friends are friends who can help you
and care about you at any moment.

you might think that the daycare teachers are your real friends
because they help you and take care of you too.

but really, they get paid by your parents
so that they need to be responsible.

a real friend would take care of you for free.
but don't be sad

you will understand friends when you are a little older!



1.

word

A WORD!!

so brilliant.

a word is something that you use
to tell other people what you want to say

0 year olds say what they want without words.

but when you use words you can have more details.

a word is so important because if we did not have words
we would be dead.

you will die because if something big happens,
like an asteroid hitting earth,
and if there were no words

you could not say "there is an asteroid!"

you learn words from the people around you.

most people say their first word when they are 1 year old.
and most people say "mama" or "papa" for their first word.

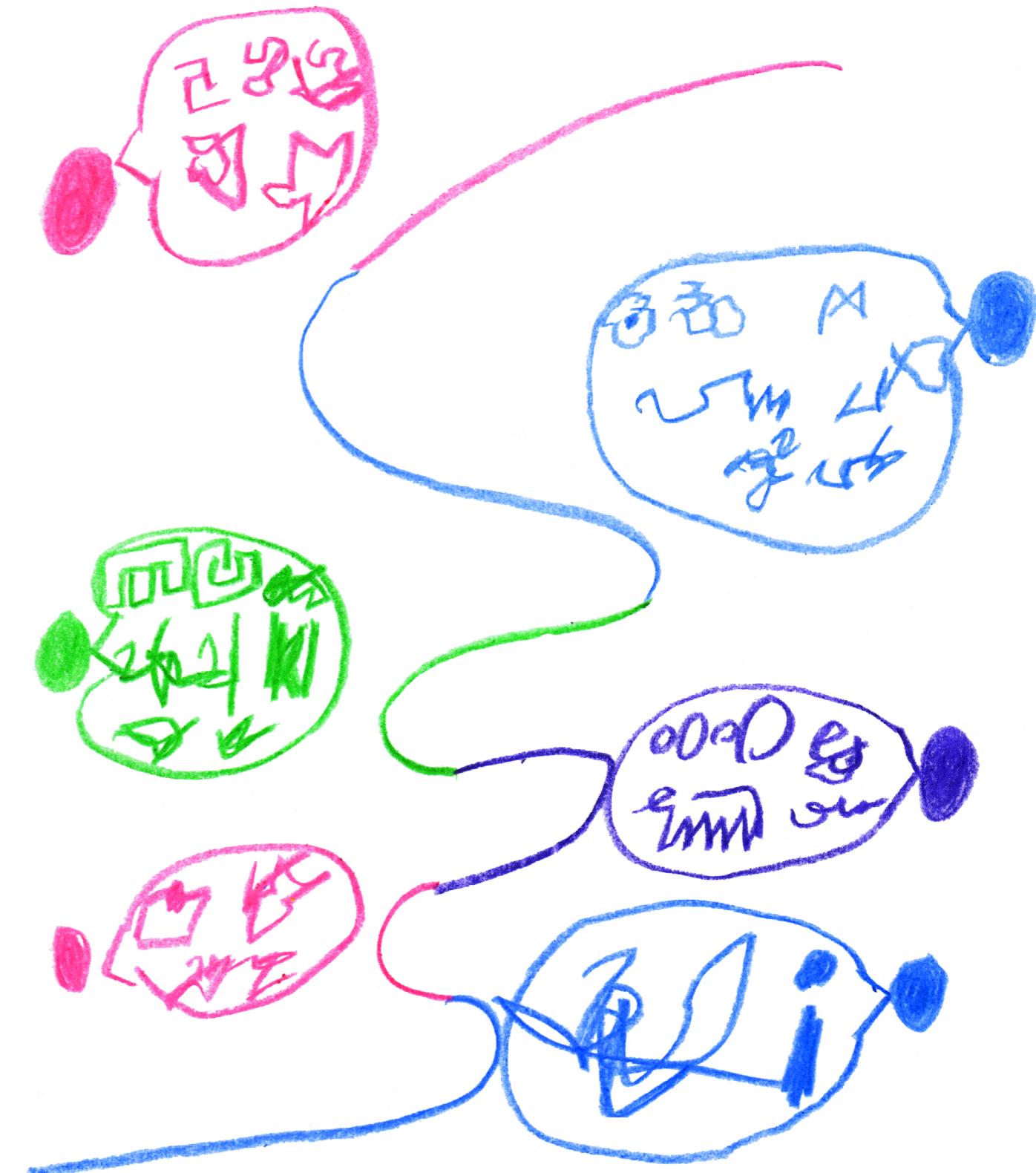
but some people say "pencil" or "school."

you can see that "pencil" or "school"
is harder than "mama" or "papa."

try and see if you can find words that are easy.

and after that try and see if you can find harder ones.

yay now you know that words can be hard or easy.



1

YES!

by now you are understanding what you like and don't like.

but i think that understanding what you like is easier.

YES is a word that tells people you are happy,
or you really like something, or you understand something.

YES is important because you use it a lot.

but there is more.

0 year olds use smiling to tell mom or dad that he or she is happy.

the difference between saying YES and smiling is that

if you say YES you can have more details.

for example:

you are at a party and somebody asked you "do you want cake?"
and if you laugh nobody will know if you want the cake or not.

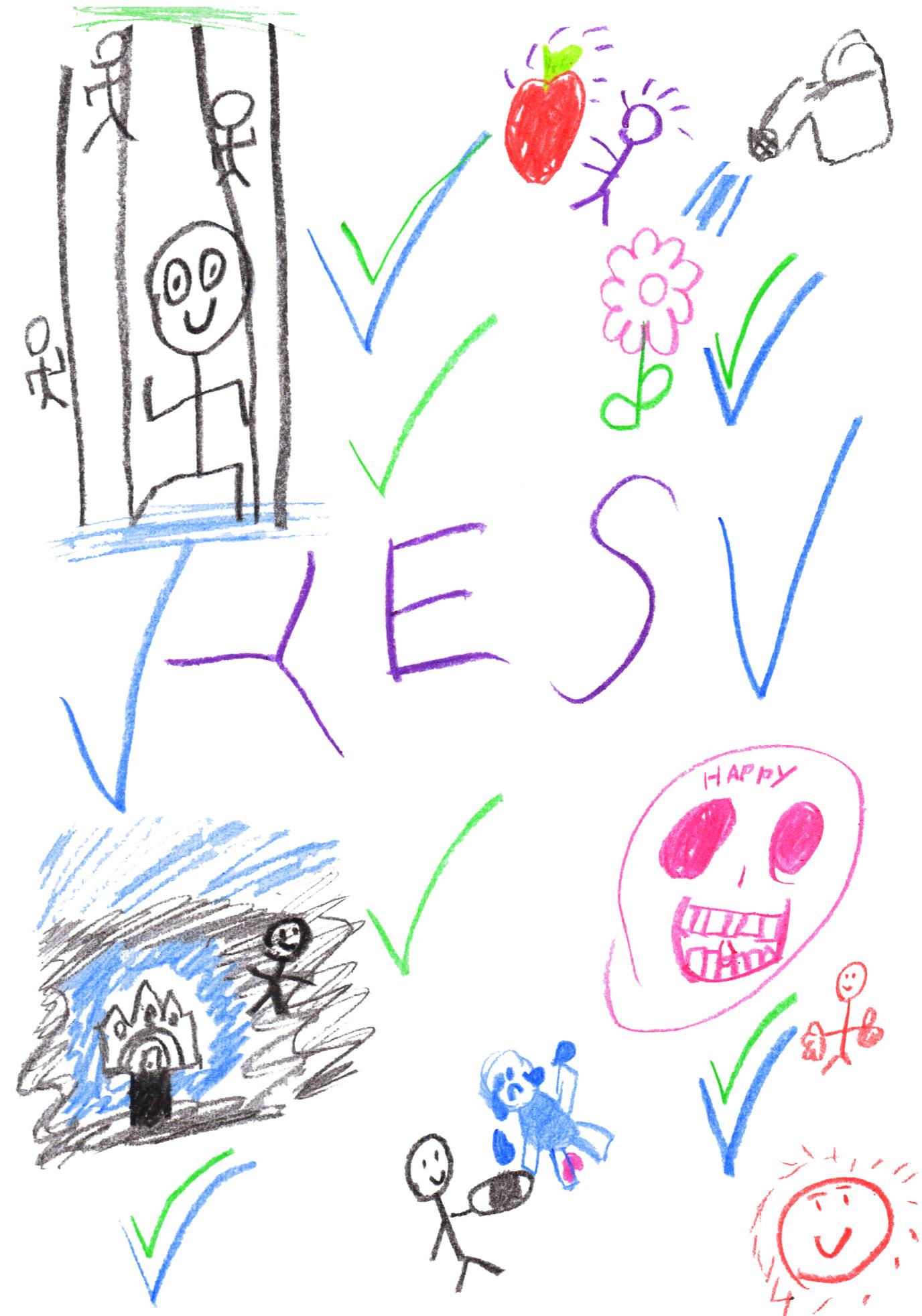
but if you say YES you will get the cake.

so that is why YES is very important.

now ask your mom or dad what 1 year olds use YES for
and if they don't know you can tell them.

good job!

i will talk about NO in the next section so keep on reading!



1.

NO!

i told you about how 1 year olds use YES.

but of course there is a reverse to that and that is NO.
NO is a word that tells people you don't want something
or you are mad.

0 year olds could say NO in a different way,
like crying or not wanting something.

the difference between saying NO and crying is that
saying NO can make it easier to understand
what you don't like or what you are mad about.

for example:

you are playing and you fall and hit your knee,
and your dad/mom says you need to go to the doctor.

but you don't wanna go, so you say "NO!"

if you were just crying they will just take you to the doctor!

but sometimes it can be better to say NO in your head.

let me tell you another example.

you are at the dining table

and eating something that you don't like.

if you say NO out loud the person who made it is going to be sad.

so to be polite you should say NO in your head.

NO can also mean, the NO in "NO way"

where the NO means "that can't be true" or "that can't happen."

ok, now you know that NO can mean a lot of things.

but let me tell you something you did not notice.

just like a family tree the many meanings of NO and YES
can be a kind of tree too!





2

friend!

yay!

friends!

a friend is super important because if you have more friends
your life is more fun!

i talked about friends a little in "daycare"

and i said that "you are too small to understand what a friend is."

but now you are 2 years old

so you understand a little more about friends.

you get your first real friend at 2 years old

because you start going to preschool

but people who are shy will get a friend later.

let me tell you one thing.

when you first see someone,

you don't know if you are going to be friends with that person.

so you have a choice to be friends or not be friends
with that person.

but after you become friends,

you forget that you had a choice of choosing that person as a friend.

and maybe, just maybe,

you will be friends with him or her until you are 30!

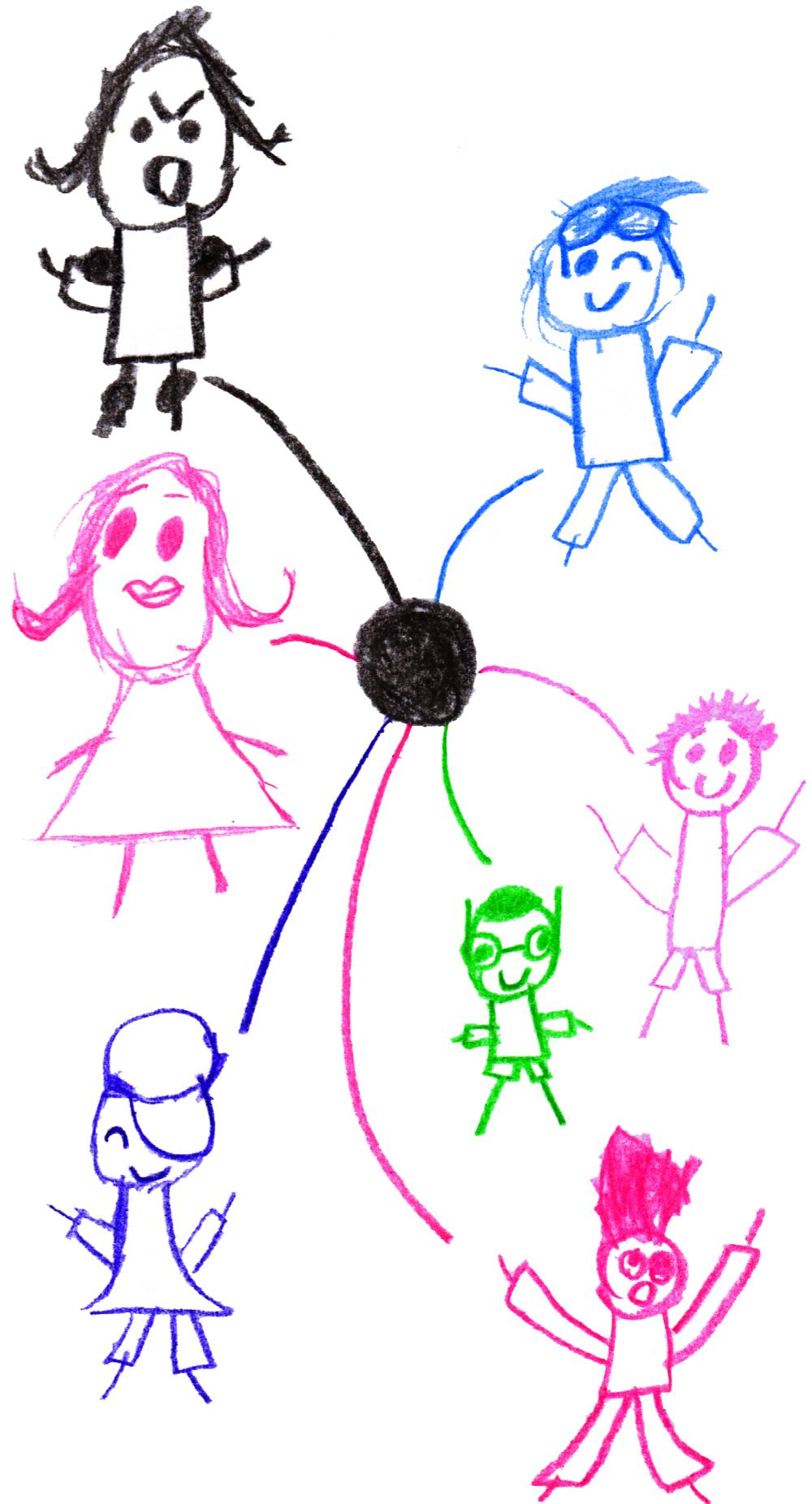
if you have a lot of friends you can do a lot of different stuff!

for example, go to the park, have sleepovers, and go fishing!

and if you want more friends you should be nice to your friend
and don't fight a lot

(only if it is play fighting like playing with sticks!)

now you know that friends can change your life so so much.



explore

exploring is super important !

if nobody could explore we would be dead!

help!

be quiet!

exploring is trying to discover something new.

without exploring you could not understand the world

because the world is full of new things!

and if you don't understand a lot about the world you will die.

o gosh.

and now you are asking yourself

when was the first time you really explored.

and you think that it was when you were 1.

but really it wasn't.

it was when you were 2.

it is because exploring is hard

and 0 and 1 year olds probably can't do hard things!

anything that is new can be dangerous.

but anything that is new will make you smarter.

and that's why exploring is important!



2

no dream

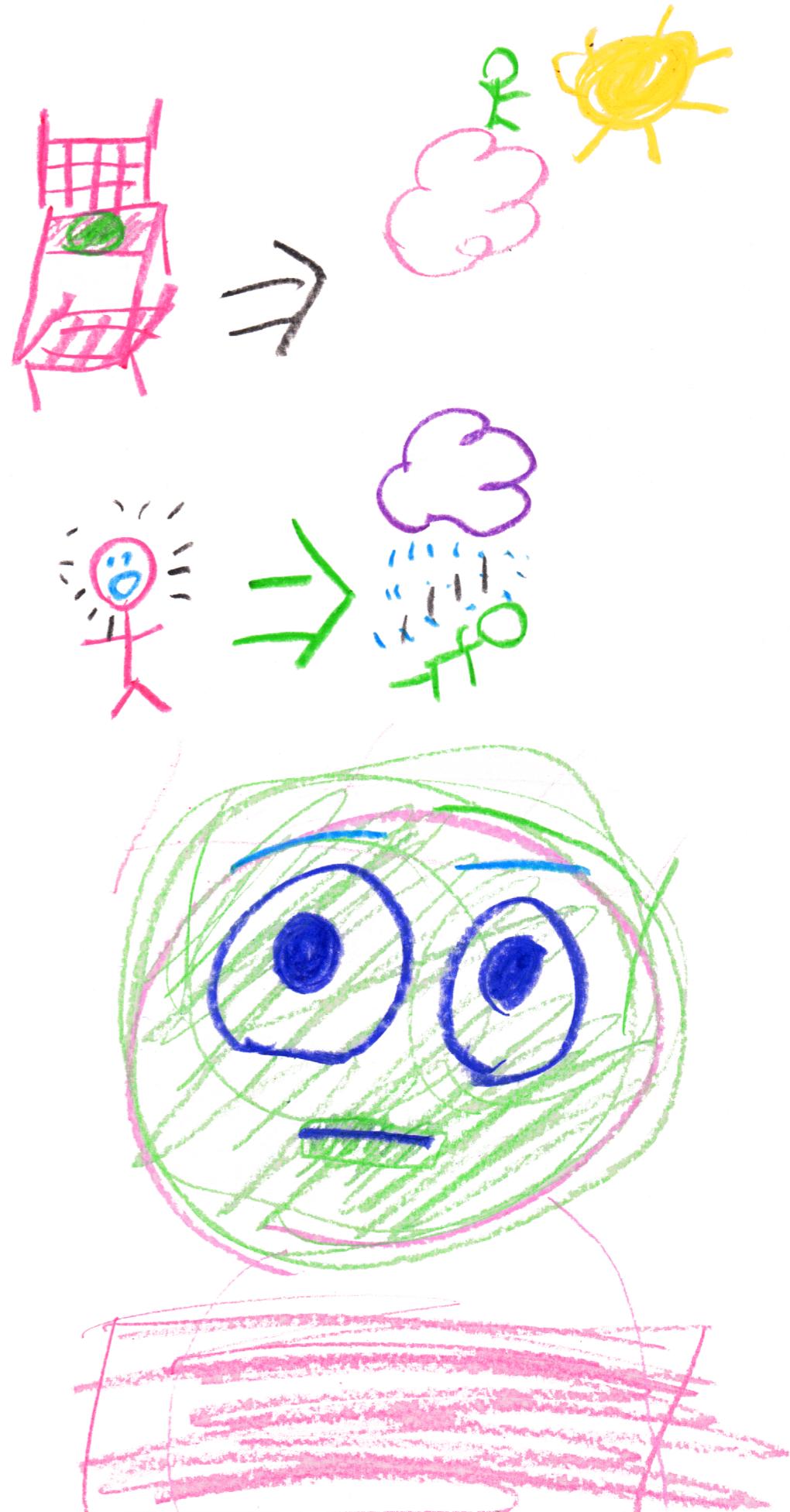
finally!

you are not in a dream, you are in real life!
most people start remembering what happened
from when they were 2 years old.

it's a good feeling to remember
but the timing is different for every person.
being in real life is connected to being able to remember.
let me explain.

why can't you remember about when you were 0 or 1 year old?

well it is because you were in a dream life.
but when you are in real life you can remember.
dream life is like being in a dream when you are awake.
you are asleep and you wake up on your second birthday.
and 9 hours ago your life was a dream
but now it's real.



2

life!

yay!

you understand life!

when you start to understand life it's fun.

life is a cycle of birth and death

and in between birth and death you can do a lot of things!

like...

going to the bathroom, or changing your clothes, or having fun!

life is not only important, it's fun, sad, happy, frustrated, and more.

but the meaning of life for me is to have fun.

from 2 years old you get life!

and that is good!

let me tell you a little tip for life.

don't waste your time!!!

if you waste your time you will die

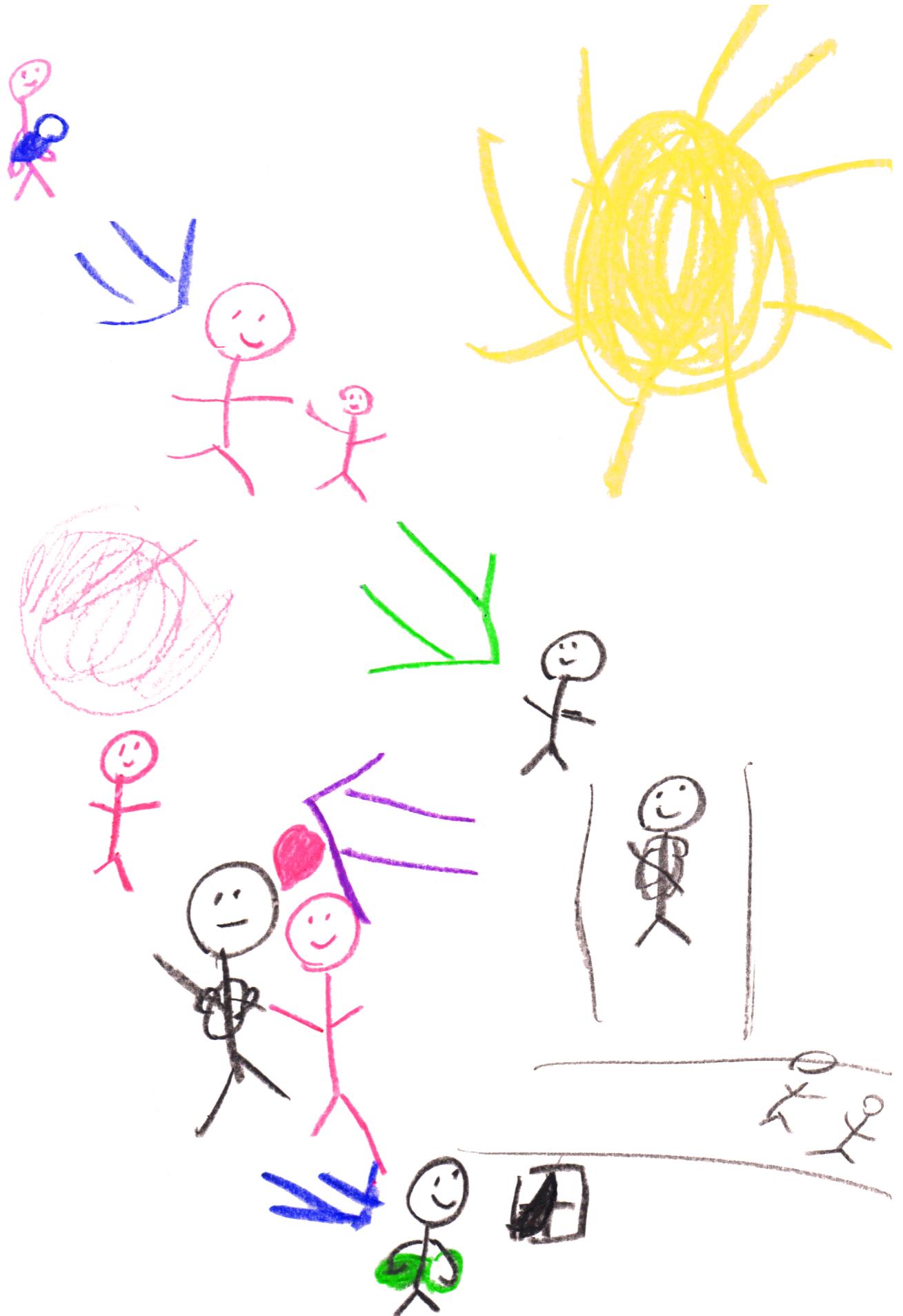
and you will say "i wish i could do it again!"

but you can't!

you can not have another person's life

because there is only one life for you.

so that explains why life is very important.





3.

whining

whining is very annoying!

but you need to do it because if you did not,
you could not have anything!

whining is for when you want something or don't want something.

some people whine a lot
and some don't.

but everybody whines at least a bit.

when you are 0 and 1 and 2 years old you only cry.

but when you turn 3 you start to whine.

crying does not use words but whining does.

whining is crying with words.

when you turn 3 you know some words so you can whine.

if you use words you can let people understand your feelings more.
and that is why you whine a lot!

even some adults whine!

for example:

your mom makes dinner and your dad does not like it so he whines.



3.

toilet

ha! ha! ha!

toilet!!

shut up!

going to the toilet is important.

most kids laugh when they hear "toilet"

but they should not!

you start to go to the toilet when you are 3 years old.

when you are 0, 1, 2 years old you wear diapers,

and some kids wear diapers when they are 6 or 7.

when you turn 3 most people start potty training.

and it's hard at first but you'll get the hang of it.

when you pee, your pee goes crazy!

like a horse that is drunk!

pee goes everywhere.

when you are 3, you still cry so if you can't flush you cry.

your poop might get on the floor too!

your toilet is dirty and you might need to touch sticky poop!

now you know that when you're 3 you should clean your toilet!

3.

alphabet

when you are 3 years old you start to understand the alphabet.
alphabet is something that human beings use
to communicate with each other.
it is a way to write down the sounds
that your mouth makes when you are talking.
words are not alphabets.
letters are alphabets.
each letter of the alphabet has a sound,
like A is "ah" or B is "be."
it's fun to understand the alphabet!
first you don't know what you are doing.
after you have mastered it you start to understand
that you are using language.
isn't that interesting!
before 3 you only know a few words
because if you don't use the alphabet you can only guess words.
if you know the alphabet you can know more words
and communicate easier with people.
for example,
and i bet you didn't know this,
but i wrote this whole book in alphabet.
ok i think that you know a lot!

A B C D E F G H I C K
L M N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z



A child's drawing of the English alphabet in red, blue, and pink. The letters are written in a cursive style. Red letters include A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z. Blue letters include H, J, K, L, M, N, O, and P. The letters are arranged in three rows: the first row contains A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P; the second row contains H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P; the third row contains Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z. There are also two stick figures, one at the top center and one on the right side, both drawn in red.

3.

bed

bed.

bed.

bed!

a bed is something that you sleep in.

sleep is when your brain rests and relaxes.

sleep is important because if you don't sleep you die.

when you are 3 years old, you start having your own bed.

before that you may have slept in a crib

or in your mom and dad's bed.

having your own bed is so nice

because you can jump and read books and rest.

but you need to take good care of your bed.

because beds cost a lot!

and if it breaks you will not get a new one

and you will need to sleep on the floor.

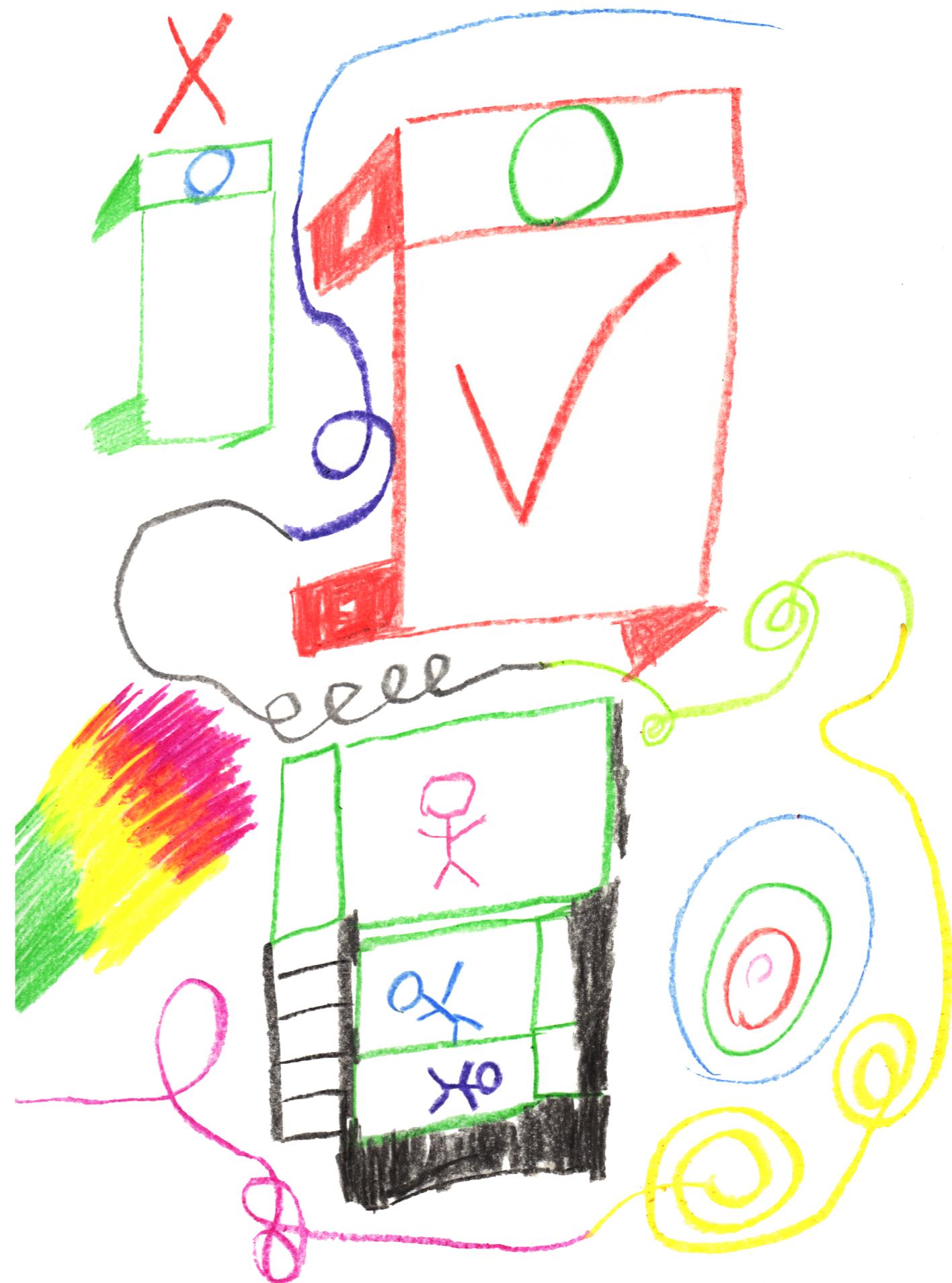
there are 195 countries in the world

but that does not mean that there are 195 kinds of beds.

i'm not an expert on beds

but i know that there are more than 195 kinds of beds!

well i think you know too much about beds so go and tell everyone!





4

looking back

when you turn 4 you start looking back.

looking back is different from just remembering.
if you remember something it stays in your head.
but looking back is to go back in time to the past.

the past is something that is before now.

it could be when you just read "before now".

that is the past!

the strange thing about looking back is that

it is something you do now

but at the same time your mind goes back to before now.

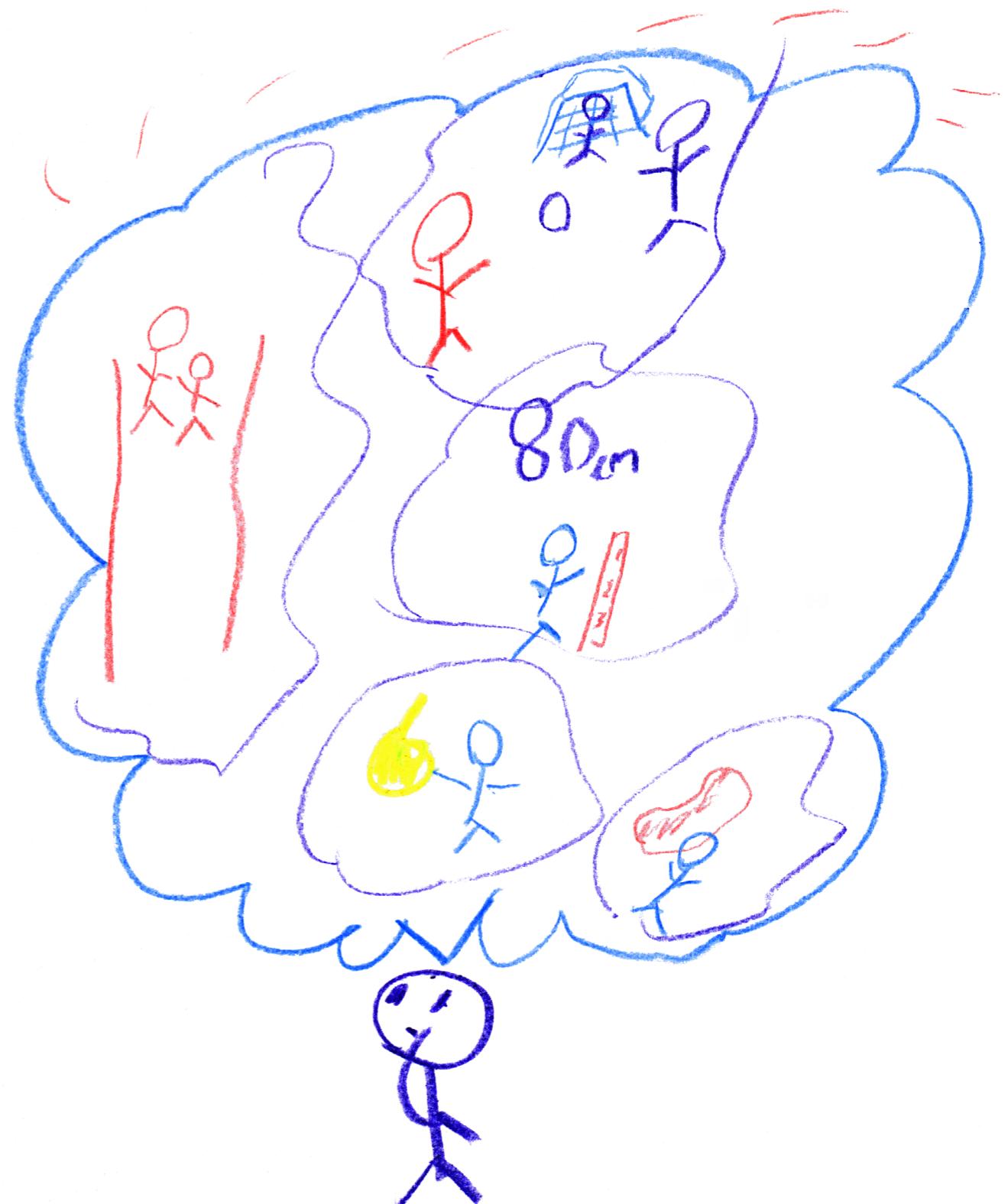
for example, it's june 22

and you are looking back to june 2 when you made a drawing.

well you are still in june 22 but your mind goes to june 2.

so your mind is split between now and before now.

that is why it's hard to look back before you are 4 years old.



4

reading

when you are 4 you start to read.

i'm not talking about chapter books!

i'm talking about baby books!

baby books are simple.

for example,

you are reading a book called "hi!"

and each page is like "hi cat" or "hi dog."

simple right?

of course.

let me tell you what books are.

a book is something you read that has pages and a cover.

but books are also many things.

guess why.

it's because there are many kinds of books!

story books, romantic books, fairytale books, superhero books,

well let me just say that there are many kinds of books.

how about you!

what kind of book do you like?

books are very fun because you can learn without learning.

let me explain.

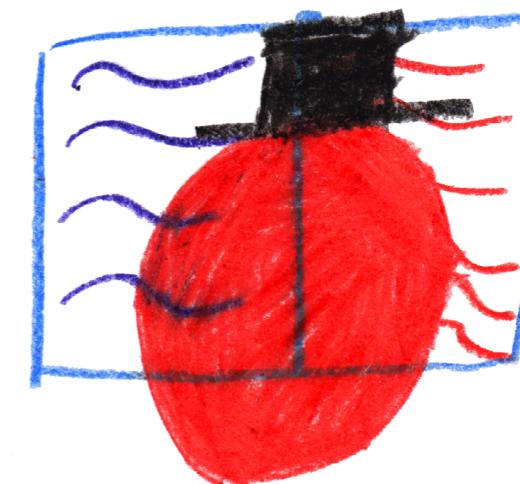
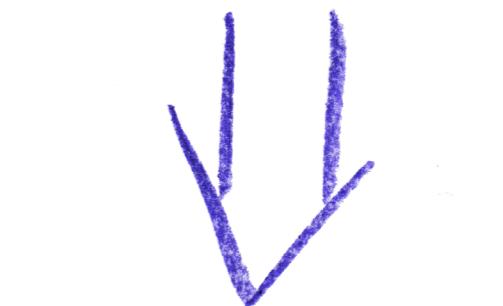
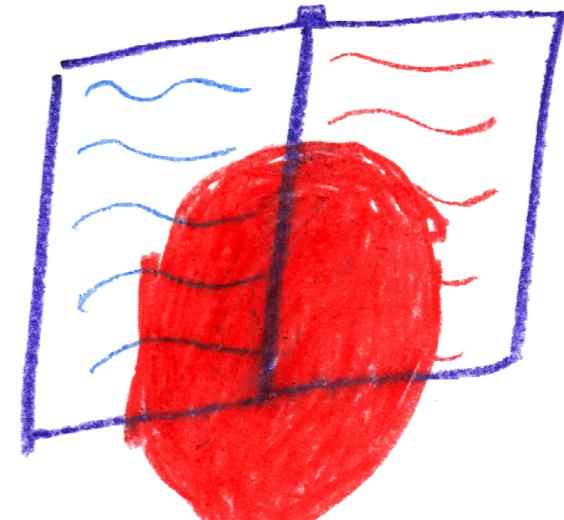
you are reading some book.

maybe it's in english or in japanese or in spanish

or some other language.

and because it's in some language

you are also learning that language by reading that book!



4

MAD!

MAD!!!

okay okay sorry!

mad is when you lose your temper.

losing temper is when you heat up.

and that is why when you are mad

you feel like you just wanna explode!

like your head hurts and you are going crazy!

first let me tell you what "mad" is for a 4 year old.

mad for a 4 year old is still a mystery.

but you almost always get mad.

babies also get mad but it's a different kind of mad.

the difference between a baby's mad and a 4 year old's mad

is that a baby cries to get something

and a 4 year old cries because they can't get something.

when you are 4 years old you want a lot of things.

but you don't only want what you want

you also want what other people have.

let me tell you something else.

when you are mad that can also mean you are sad.

for example:

you get into a big fight and you get expelled from daycare.

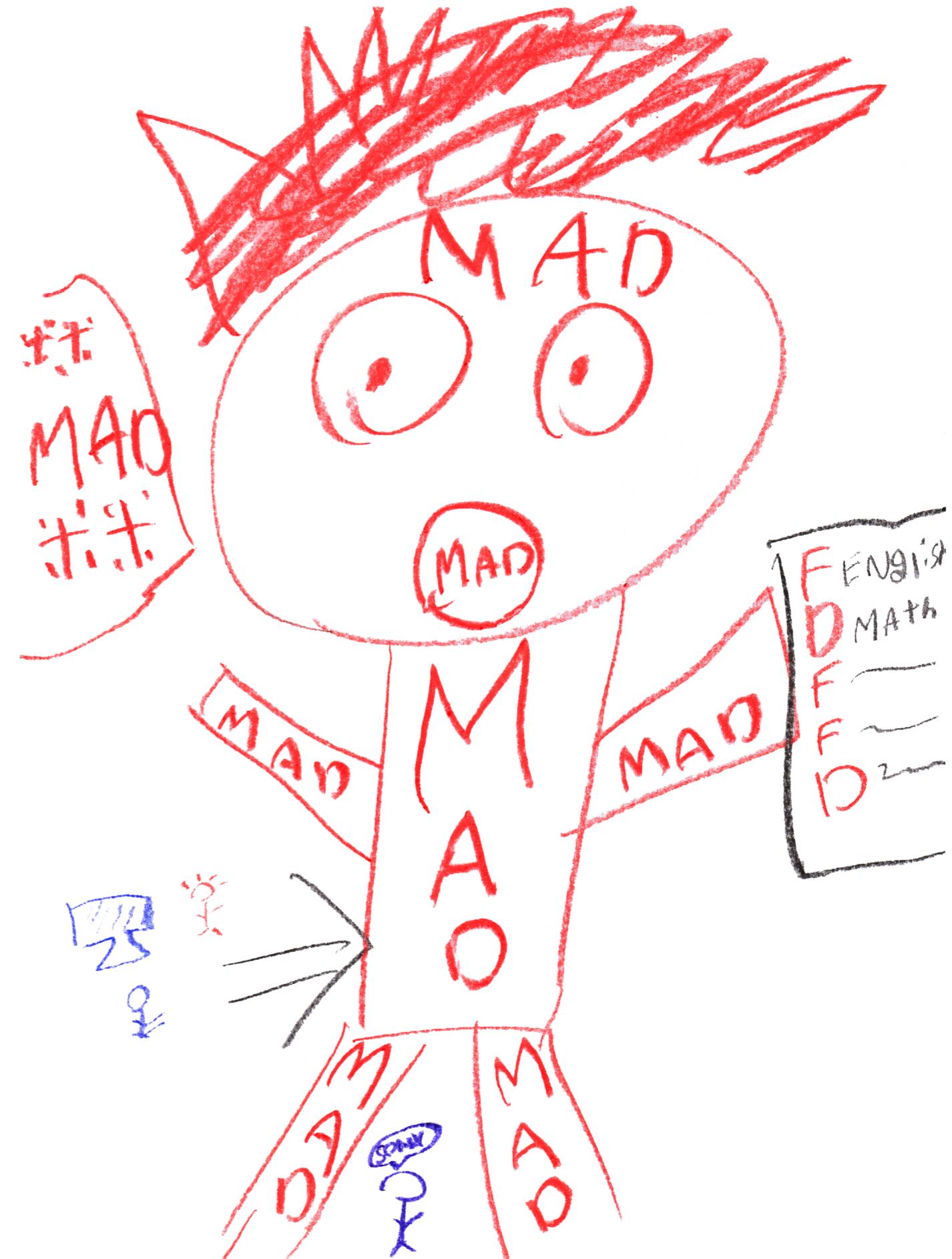
and when your mom finds out she's mad at you for fighting

but she is also sad because you got expelled.

so when you get mad at a person who is getting mad

that person is also sad

and you might even be sad and mad too!



4

rules

when you are 4, you start to understand rules.

rules are something someone makes that you need to follow.
most rules for kids are what parents make to keep the kids safe
...or at least that's what they say.

for 4 year olds rules are simple:

only half of the ice cream, or don't go out in the street,
or hold hands when crossing the road.

do you like following rules?

well i don't.

i always ask myself why do we need rules?

and sometimes we don't need rules.

but sometimes we do.

for example, if we didn't have laws
we would all hurt different people.

but you are asking "we were talking about rules,
but why are we talking about laws?"

a rule is a thing that somebody makes.

and if a lot of people believe that rule it becomes a law.

so a law is a rule that you should never break.

if you break a law you will get punished.

but now you are thinking we also get punished
when we break a house rule.

but that's because you are a kid.

i know that other parents have different house rules.

so it's not a law but we still get punished.

i think parents' rules are unfair!







Purchase the full book from alreadynotyet.org!

1931

**you probably don't remember
what it was like when you were born,
but i remember so i will tell you.**



LESSONS
FOR
GROWING
UP
WORKING

When 9-year-old Aevi learned that he was going to have a little brother, he decided to write a book for his baby sibling that explained how kids explore the world. The result is a fantastic guidebook of what children go through in the first 10 years of their lives, sorted out in four critical topics per year and beautifully illustrated by the author. In this quintessential children's book written by a kid as a loving gift to another kid, the readers will learn many important things about life in this strange world of ours, including how to distinguish dream and reality, what makes parents' rules unfair, why friends are important, how to deal with complicated things, and which elementary school grade is the hardest of them all.

0 year old: life is a dream | where am i? | ATTENTION! | life?

1 year old: daycare | word | YES! | NO!

2 year old: friend! | explore | no dream | life!

3 year old: whining | toilet | alphabet | bed

4 year old: looking back | reading | MAD! | rules

5 year old: bye bye preschool | hi kindergarten! | nice words | spelling

6 year old: first grade | fashion | good and bad | hi new friends

7 year old: complicated | know/don't know | why? | second grade

8 year old: hardest grade | homework | bragging | afterschool

9 year old: alone | finally | fourth grade | dream

