How Pranav Went to School

Story: Nandini Nayar
Illustrations: Dileep Chinchalker
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This is for my own Pranav.
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“Wake up,” Pranav’s mother said to him one day,
“Wake up. You are going to school today!”
“You will have great fun in school,” Pranav’s mother told him, “You will meet other children and play nice games and sing songs. Then you will eat lunch and then come home in the evening.”
“And Monkey?” Pranav asked.

“Monkey will stay at home too,” Pranav’s mother said.
“Come on Hatti,” Pranav picked up his elephant, “We are going to school!”

“Hatti won’t go to school with you,” Pranav’s mother told him.

“Why can’t he go with me?” Pranav asked.

“He will stay here at home,” Pranav’s mother said.
“And my doggy and fish and doll.. and my Lion King book?” Pranav asked.

“They will all stay at home,” Pranav’s mother said.
“And you?” Pranav asked in a small voice.

“I'll stay at home too,” Pranav's mother said, “And I'll look after Hatti and Monkey and doll and your books!”

“I don't want to go to school!” Pranav said, “I don't want to leave you all at home and go!”

“Please!” Pranav begged, “Please let me stay at home!”
“But you will have fun at school,” Pranav’s mother said,
“There will be lots of other children there and new toys and...”
“But I don't want to leave you and Hatti and Monkey and go!” Pranav wailed.

“But Pranav,” Pranav’s mother said, “When you come back from school we will all be here!”

“All of you?” Pranav asked.

“All of us,” Pranav’s mother said, “Hatti and Monkey! Me and your doggy and your doll and all your books! And your swing and your red cycle!”
“Then,” Pranav said, “I will go to school!”

“That is good!” Pranav’s mother smiled.

“I will go, so that I can come back!” Pranav grinned.
“प्रणव उठो,” प्रणव की माँ ने उससे एक दिन कहा, “उठो, तुम आज स्कूल जा रहे हो।”
“स्कूल?” प्रणव ने पूछा, “मैं वहाँ क्या करूँगा?”
“तुम वहाँ बहुत मजे करोगे,” माँ ने कहा, “वहाँ तुम्हें बहुत से दोस्त मिलेंगे, अच्छे-अच्छे खेल खेलोगे, गाना गाओगे, खाना खाओगे और फिर शाम को वापस घर आएगे।”
“हथ्थी आओ,” प्रणव ने अपने हाथी को उठाया, “हम स्कूल जा रहे हैं!”
“हथ्थी तुम्हारे साथ स्कूल नहीं जाएगा,” माँ ने कहा।
“वह मेरे साथ स्कूल क्यों नहीं जा सकता?” प्रणव ने पूछा।
“वह घर पर ही रहेगा,” माँ ने कहा।
“और बन्दर?” प्रणव ने पूछा
“बन्दर भी घर ही रहेगा,” माँ बोली।
“और मेरा कुत्ता, मछली, मेरी गुड़िया और मेरी शेर वाली किताब?” प्रणव ने पूछा।
“वे सब घर में रहेंगे,” प्रणव की माँ ने कहा।
“और तुम,” प्रणव ने धीरे से पूछा।
“मैं भी घर पर रहूँगी,” माँ ने कहा। “मैं तुम्हारे हाथी, बन्दर, गुड़िया और तुम्हारी किताबों का घर पर ध्याल रखूँगी!”
“फिर मैं स्कूल नहीं जाऊँगा!” प्रणव ने कहा, “मैं सबको घर में अकेला छोड़कर स्कूल नहीं जा सकता!”
“माँ! प्लीसे! मुझे घर पर ही रहने दो।”
“पर प्रणव स्कूल में तो तुम्हें बहुत मजा आएगा,” माँ ने कहा, “तुम्हें वहाँ बहुत से दोस्त मिलेंगे, खूब सारे खिलौने और....”
“पर माँ में तुम्हें, हाथी को और बन्दर को छोड़कर नहीं जाऊँगा!” प्रणव ने दुखी होकर कहा।
“पर प्रणव जब तुम स्कूल से आओगे, तो हम सब यहाँ मिलेंगे!”
“सब?” प्रणव ने पूछा।
“हाँ, हम सब,” प्रणव की माँ बोली।
“तुम्हारा हाथी, बन्दर, मैं, तुम्हारा कुत्ता, तुम्हारी गुड़िया, और तुम्हारी सब किताबें! तुम्हारा झूला और तुम्हारी वह लाल साइकिल!”
“फिर तो मैं स्कूल जाऊँगा!” प्रणव बोला।
“बहुत अच्छे!” प्रणव की माँ मुस्काई।

“मैं स्कूल जाऊँगा, ताकि फिर वापस आ सकूँ!”
प्रणव ने हँसते हुए कहा।
Eklavya

Eklavya, a non-governmental registered society, has been working in the fields of education and people’s science since its inception in 1982. Eklavya’s main aim is to develop educational practices and materials that are related to a child’s environment, and are based on play, activities and creative learning. In the course of our work in this area, we have discovered that efforts in schools can become effective only when children also get opportunities for creative learning in the time and space outside school. Books and magazines, and other teaching aids are essential parts of such inputs.

In the past few years Eklavya has extended its area of work to include publishing. We regularly bring out the following periodicals: Chakmak, a monthly science magazine for children; Srote, a science and technology news feature; and Sandarbh, a bimonthly on education. In addition to titles on education and popular science and creative activity books for children, we develop and publish books on wider issues of development.