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...then she started dancing like this!

Ha! Okay, let's get back to work.

Do you understand number 4?

Which part?

Kayla! Watch this!

Hey Kayla! Look at this!

No, Andre!

Sorry about that.

It's cool.

He won't bother us in here.

WHAM
GIRLS, PLEASE STOP MAKING ANDRE CRY. DINNER ISN'T COOKING ITSELF YOU KNOW.

WHOA! KAYLA... WHAT IS THAT?

KAYLA!

UH?

SORRY, MOM! JUST TRYING TO DO HOMEWORK.

I UNDERSTAND, GIRLS. THERE'S JUST A LOT HAPPENING AT ONCE A...

...AAAAND THERE'S THE OVEN TIMER. COME ON, ANDRE.

FINISH UP WHAT YOU ARE WORKING ON, THEN GET TO THE TABLE FOR DINNER.

OKAY, MOM!

BUT.. BUT.. BUT...

I'LL EXPLAIN AFTER DINNER.
Calm down, Andre. Daddy's working on it.

Kayla, how was your first day?

What did you girls do in class today? ...Kayla?

Come on, tell me.

Like I said, after dinner.

Ewww!

Andre!
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT MY BROTHER.

MHM MHM... WHAT'S IN THE BOX?!!

SO... THESE ARE FROM MY ADVENTURES...

I GOT THIS DURING OCEAN DAY IN KINDERGARTEN. I STARTED READING ABOUT THE SEA SUDDENLY I WAS ON A BEACH.

I WAS SO LOST, AND THIS WHISTLE HELPED BRING ME BACK HOME.

I WAS A COWGIRL ONE HALLOWEEN. I GOT LOST WHILE TRICK-OR-TREATING. I FOUND THIS WHILE TRYING TO GET BACK TO MY FAMILY.

YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT ONCE I EVEN SAW A...

...DINOSAUR.

BUT THIS LAST TIME SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT.

I WASN'T ALONE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU LEFT THE CLASSROOM? I WAS NEXT TO YOU THE WHOLE TIME?

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT EITHER.

AND SOMEHOW MS. PALMER LEFT TOO... AS AN OWL?

WELL, SORT OF...

THAT NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE... YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE.

EMILY, THAT WAS YOUR MOM ON THE PHONE. IT'S TIME TO GO HOME!

UM... THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

LATER, KAYLA.

KAYLA, LOOK WHO I FOUND AT THE FRONT DOOR?

HEY GIRL!
There's lots of art stuff, I guess. Sounds like a great start to the year.

Dad!

Well, I know you'll have a great year.

I got you something to celebrate the new school year.

Yay!

Why don't you read some of it to me?
Issue 1.5 Parent/Caregiver Resources

Kayla's household is busy, just like most! But how much is too much? Check out this short article to explore further and get some easy tips from the experts at PBS: http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2015/05/important-control-household-chaos/

Kayla seems to be struggling with a secret and might need help building self-confidence. Having a positive sense of who you are helps children become more confident in forming positive relationships with others. To learn about the importance of self-awareness, visit: Understood.org https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/self-awareness/the-importance-of-self-awareness

Kayla and Emily are engaged in a deep conversation and Kayla is mustering up the confidence to share a big secret with her. In the meantime, Mom and Dad are managing Andre’s food outburst! If you’ve ever struggled to manage very young children, check out these resources from the experts at Zero to Three: https://vimeo.com/136542936 https://www.zerotothree.org/espanol/positive-parenting-approaches

The type of behavior displayed by Andre can be frustrating for parents and siblings! To learn more about what might be behind Andre’s behavior, check out this article from PBS.org: http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2017/11/reframing-misbehavior-lessons-toddler-years/

For more information or to stay up to date with Kayla’s adventure, visit www.improvingliteracy.org or @NCILiteracy
Issue 1.5 Parent/Caregiver Resources

Is there a chance that Kayla feels like she’s pushed to the side because Andre’s behavior requires so much attention from her parents? We may not know enough about that yet, but here are some expert tips for strengthening the child-parent bond:

**Psychology Today**

Kayla has decided to trust Emily with her secret and begins sharing her story. It can be tricky for pre-adolescent kids to forge trusting relationships with friends and Kayla is adding a fantastical story to the mix. If you are interested in learning more about pre-adolescent friendships, visit PBS.org for more:

Kayla just started to share her story with Emily and it didn't go very well because Emily didn’t believe parts of it. This sense of rejection is tough for pre-adolescents! As a parent, you can help build your child’s self-esteem and help her advocate for herself. Check out this age-specific and topic-specific tool from Understood.org:
https://www.understood.org/en/tools/parenting-coach

We don't know if there will be a conflict between Kayla and Emily yet, but if you are interested in helping your child resolve conflict, visit here:

The connection between social and emotional factors and learning disabilities can be tricky to understand. This article from the University of Michigan helps describe how the two can be related:

Kayla shares her dislike for reading in response to her Aunt's gift of a book. Children with learning difficulties struggle to describe how they feel. To learn more about learning difficulties from a child's perspective, check this resource out from Reading Rockets:

We don't know yet if Kayla's reading struggles are due to dyslexia, but if you would like to learn more about the signs of dyslexia, visit this resource from the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center:

For more information or to stay up to date with Kayla's adventure

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