

A DAY AT KINDERGARTEN





One autumn morning, Dolly knocked on Berry's door. She was in a hurry.
"Come quickly, Berry, or we'll be late."
Berry got ready and the two friends held hands and walked to the kindergarten together.



Lots of little children were gathered in the playground. They were all happy to see each other.

There was Balthazar the bee, Flutter the butterfly, Stanley the stag beetle, Eddy the potato beetle, Zephyr the dragonfly, Alfonso the cricket, Leapy the grasshopper and Bubble the baby beetle.



Mrs. Bumblebee patiently guided everybody into their classrooms. The little, middle and top children went into different rooms. Bubble was in the little group. He waved to Berry and Dolly from the doorway.



They started the day with exercises.



All the jumping around gave them a good appetite for breakfast. After breakfast, the children made beautiful pictures from the leaves they'd collected in the woods.



When everybody had finished, Mrs. Bumblebee gathered the children in a circle. She taught them lots of songs and games. The children all danced around.



Then it was playtime. Mrs. Bumblebee sat in a rocking chair and watched the children. They could all play with anything they wanted. Berry and the boys ran straight over to the car box and started playing cars. They built ramps and tunnels.



"Can I play?" Dolly asked. She was holding a broken car.

"Oh, Dolly. You can't play cars with that old thing!" Berry told her.

"And anyway, cars are for boys not girls."

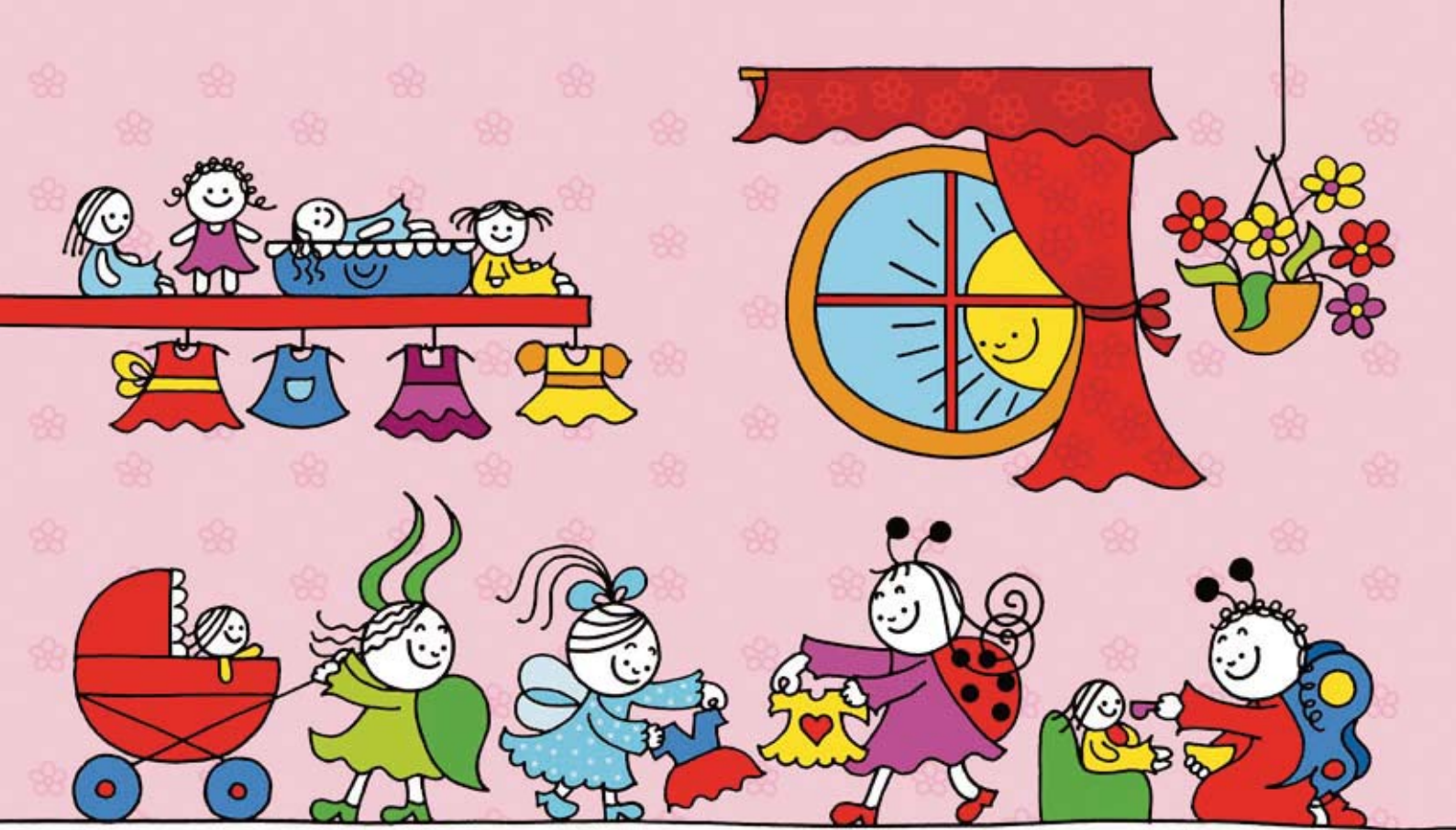


That made Dolly cry.

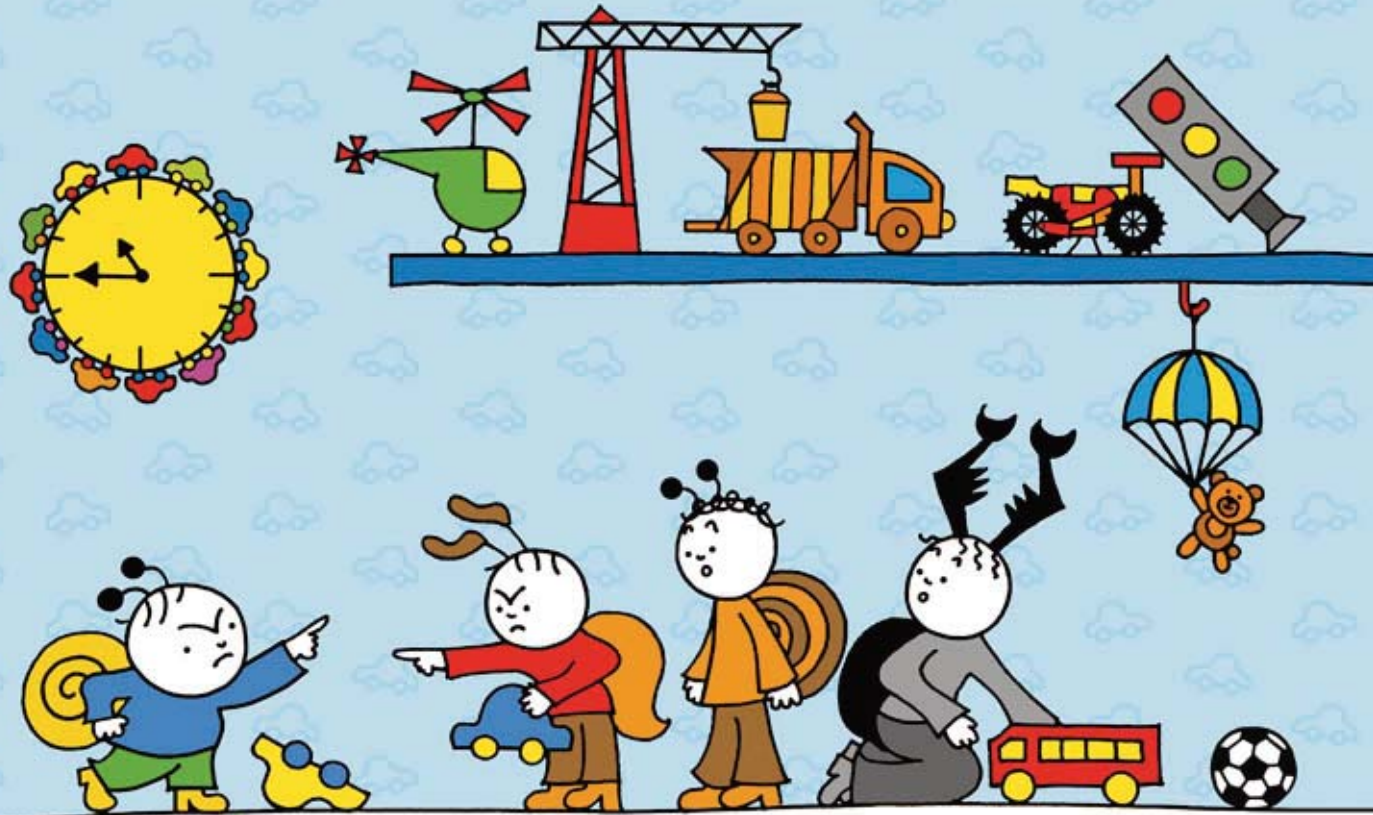
"The boys don't want to play with me," she told Flutter.

Flutter, Leapy and Zephyr quickly cheered her up.

"Come and play with us! We're playing with dolls."



The girls dressed their dolls in pretty dresses, fed them and rocked them to sleep. Dolly liked this game a lot.



Then Berry got into an argument with Maurice the maybug.
"You keep knocking my car over. It is not fair. You're a cheat!" Berry shouted.

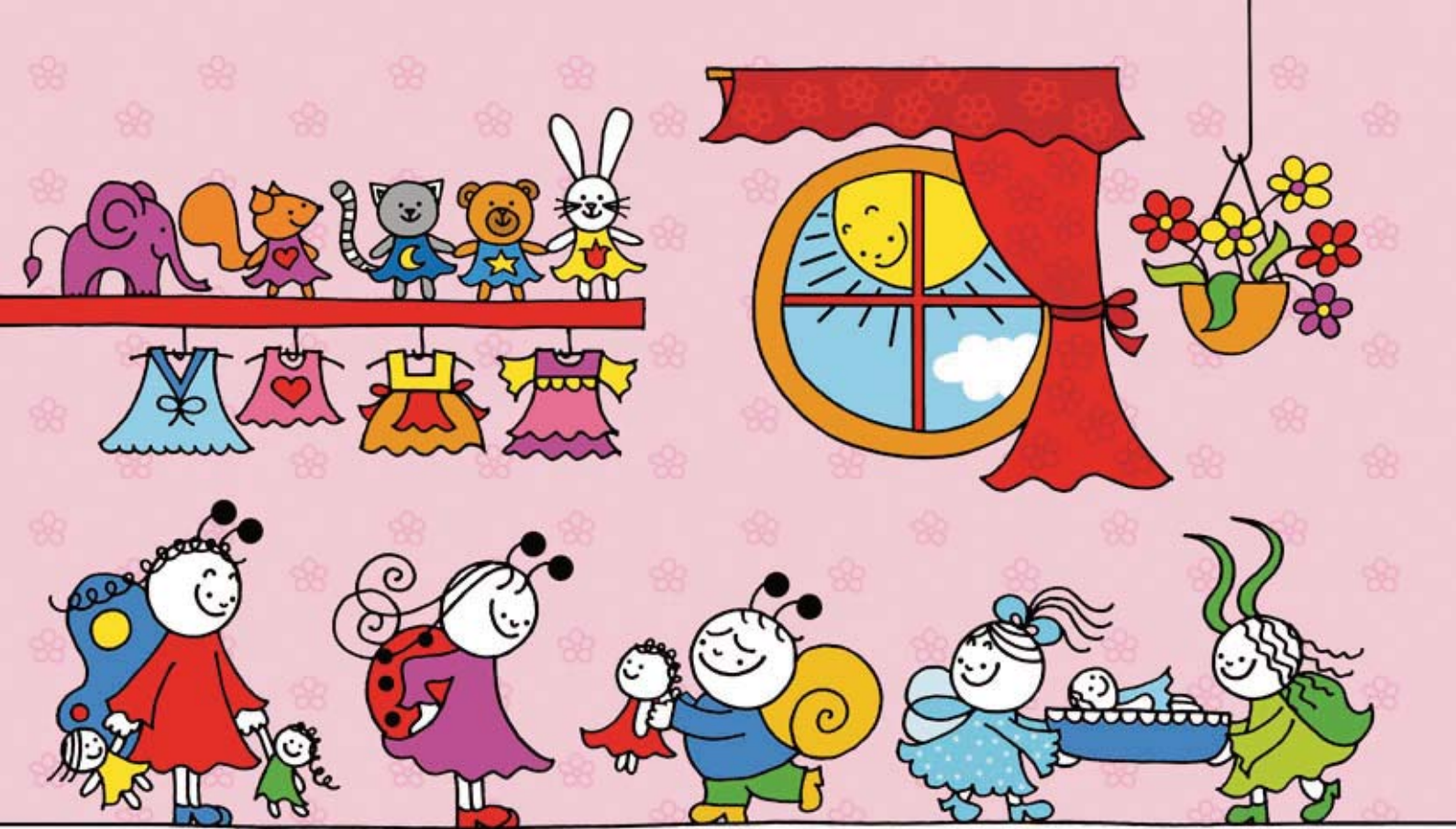


"That's not true. You're a cheat!" replied Maurice.

"That's it! I'm not playing with you anymore!" Berry said sulkily and left the boys.



"Can I join in your game?" Berry asked his friend Dolly.
"You can't play with us. It's a girls' game!" Dolly sulked.



"But I brought a doll with me. It's got curly hair. I want to play with you."

"All right," Dolly said. "Come and play with us. But now you'll have to let me play cars with you."



"Children! Time to wash your hands!" Mrs. Bumblebee shouted. "Then go and sit down at the tables."



Mrs. Earwig the dinner lady dished up their dinner.



When everybody had finished eating, Berry and Dolly collected up all the plates and glasses.



Then the children had a little lie down while Mrs. Bumblebee read them a story. They all listened in silence and a few of them fell fast asleep.



When they got up, they all had a snack and went out into the playground. It was enormous and filled with all kinds of slides, climbing frames and swings with a big wooden train in the middle. Berry and Maurice quickly made friends again and played on the swings together.



Dolly helped Bubble up the slide and caught him at the bottom. Bubble liked that a lot.



The rest of the day flew by and soon the children were waving goodbye to each other. They couldn't wait for tomorrow to come.