

## Bertie's Playdate

Once upon a time, there was a little boy called Bertie. He lived in a beautiful, blue house and had a lovely garden full of flowers. Bertie was a very happy boy who loved to play with his friends.

One day, Bertie's friend, Betty, was coming over for a play. It was a lovely sunny day so Bertie decided that he wanted them to play in the garden. He was so excited to see Betty. A little while later, they were feeling tired so they went inside for a nice drink and a snack. Bertie asked Betty what she would like to do next.

"How about drawing a picture of your lovely garden," said Betty. Bertie was a little worried because he didn't think he was very good at drawing flowers and trees.

"I can't do that," said Bertie. "I can't draw flowers or trees or grass." Bertie looked sad. He wanted to draw with Betty but he didn't know how.

"Don't worry," said Betty. "If you try your hardest, your brain will help you."

"What do you mean?" said Bertie. "What does my brain do?"

"Well," said Betty. "Your brain is very clever. It helps you with lots and lots of things, in fact, it helps you with everything that you do. When you practise something, your brain remembers and next time it's a little easier. Shall we try it with drawing? I will help you. Come on, I'll show you." So Betty and Bertie sat down together with all of the things that they needed for drawing. They started by drawing a tree. Betty drew hers first and then Bertie tried to copy it.

"See," said Bertie. "Mine's rubbish. Yours is so neat and mine looks more like a big blob than a tree."

"Don't worry," said Betty. "Let's try again." So Bertie tried again and this time, the picture was neater and looked more like a tree.

"That's better," said Bertie. "It looks a bit like a tree now." Bertie kept practising until he had a tree that he was really happy with. "You were right!" said Bertie. "Practising something does make it get easier and easier. Aren't our brains amazing!"

"Yes, they are," said Betty. "And they help us with lots of other things, too. The most important thing to remember is that each time we practise something or learn something new, our brain remembers and it makes it easier for next time."

"Wow!" said Bertie. "That really is amazing. Come on let's carry on with our pictures. I want to try flowers next."

"Okay," said Betty. "Let's go."