

The Surprise



By Linda Strachan
Illustrated by Jean Cairns

We are the SAFE-T-CREW



Jamie



Isla



Sophie



Lewis



Max

We are the
SAFE-T-CREW



Looking out for me and YOU



We use our powers of observation



To check for danger in a situation

One! Two!



Safe-T-Crew

Jamie's Diary

Day 1

Today dad had a big surprise for us. My little brother Max is only three, and he was so excited that he was jumping up and down because he had no idea what the surprise was.

Even I didn't know what it was.

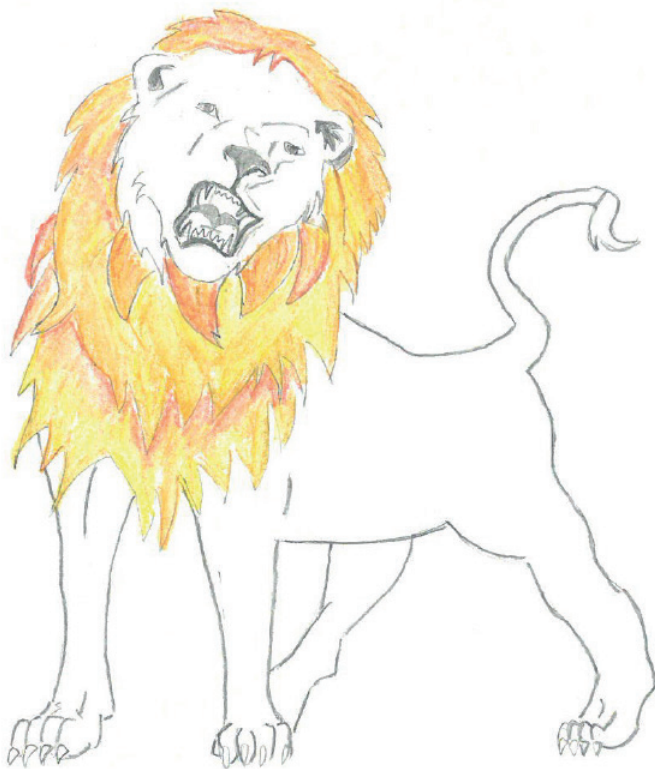


Mum said it was very exciting but we had to put all our toys away before Dad got back, otherwise they might get wrecked by the surprise. I couldn't imagine what kind of surprise it could be.

"It's a dinosaur!" Max yelled as he tossed all his toy dinosaurs into their bucket.



I didn't think it was a dinosaur but it was a good game so I roared, "It's a huge scary lion!"



I made sure all my Lego pieces were back in their box. I wouldn't want a lion to chew them up, even though I was sure it wouldn't be a lion.... would it?

The door bell went and Max and I rushed to the door. It wasn't dad, it was my best friend Sophie.

I told her all about the surprise, at least all that I knew about it, which wasn't very much.

"It's going to be a dragon that breathes fire,"
Max told Sophie.



"That's why we have to put all our toys away.
You can help us, if you like, Sophie."



"Maybe it's a Giant," Sophie stretched her arm up as high as she could, her eyes wide. "As tall as a house!"

"Dad's back!" Max yelled.

He ran over and climbed onto his toy garage to look out of the window.



Sophie grabbed onto his t-shirt. "Don't lean out of the window, Max, it's really dangerous, you might fall out and get hurt!"

She closed the window and we all peered through the glass, trying to see what dad had brought home.

"I can't see anything in the car." Max sounded a bit disappointed. "Certainly not anything as big as a dinosaur."

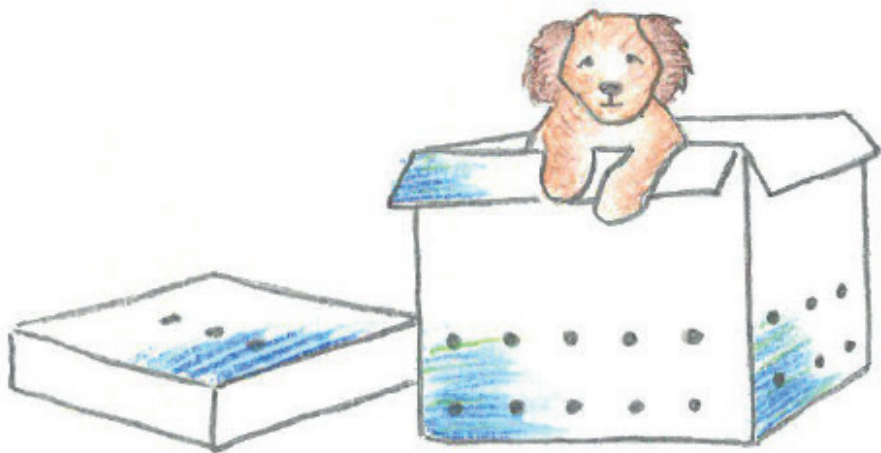
We all ran downstairs as Dad came into the house carrying a large box. He put it down in the middle of the hall. The box moved and there was a strange scrabbling noise coming from inside it.

Sophie and I backed away but Max went right up to the box and was about to bang on the side when Dad stopped him.

"You have to be quiet or you will scare it," he said.

Sophie and I looked at each other in surprise. "What is it?" I gulped.

Dad crouched down and opened the top of the box. Inside was a tiny little...



...PUPPY!

"You'll have to think of a name for him," Mum said as we all watched the puppy lapping up some water with his little pink tongue.

"Why did we have to put all our toys away, Mummy?" asked Max.

"Because puppies chew things!" Sophie and I said together.

Day 2

The next day Sophie came back to visit with her twin brother and sister, Lewis and Isla. They wanted to see the puppy, too.



He loves being
petted but he likes to
nibble fingers. Sophie
and I were right,
little puppies chew
EVERYTHING!



He chewed the
blanket mum put in his
dog bed. He chewed
dad's slipper that he
found underneath the
chair. He even chewed
the bottom of the
door!

After all the playing and chewing the little puppy was exhausted and he fell fast asleep in his bed.



Mum said we had to look all around the house for things that the puppy might chew.

"Isn't it funny that lots of things that could be dangerous for the puppy are also hasserdouse, hazardous for all of us!" Sophie said.

Sophie likes to use big words!

"We could have a game to see who could find the most things around the house that the puppy might chew, or things that are dangerous for him," Isla said.

I went to get a notepad and a pencil so that we could write down all the things we found. "Let's start in the kitchen!" I suggested. "There are lots of things here."

"Max's plastic cup is on the floor, he could chew that!" Isla put it on the table.

"That's great, Isla," Sophie found a bag tucked behind the bin. "And here's a plastic bag, he might put his head inside it, that would be very dangerous for anyone, not just a puppy!"

"These knives are close to the edge of the worktop," I put them away in the drawer. "These cupboards should have safety locks on them, too. He might stick his paws in and get them open. There's bleach and liquid tabs for the dishwasher in here. He might try and eat them. That would make him very sick."

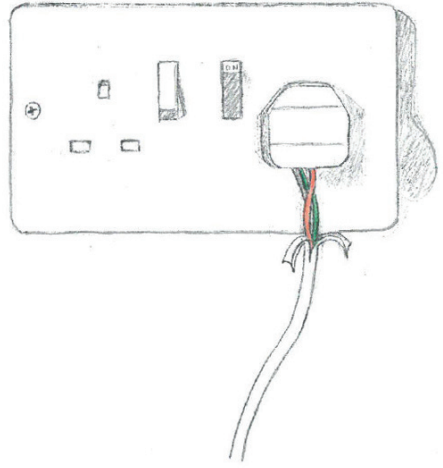
Next we went into the living room.

"Max's train and his wooden jigsaw is on the floor. The puppy would chew them, wouldn't he?" asked Lewis.

"That's right, Lewis," Sophie nodded. "Can you put them all in the toy box and close the lid?"

Sophie noticed that the cords from the window blind were trailing on the floor. "He might chew the cord from the window blinds or get tangled up in them. They should be tied up," she

said, tying the cord around the special hook on the wall. I wrote that down, too.



"Look at these!" I pointed to the electric cable that was lying on the floor. "If he chews on that, it would be very dangerous."

"Why is it dangerous, Jamie?" asked Lewis.

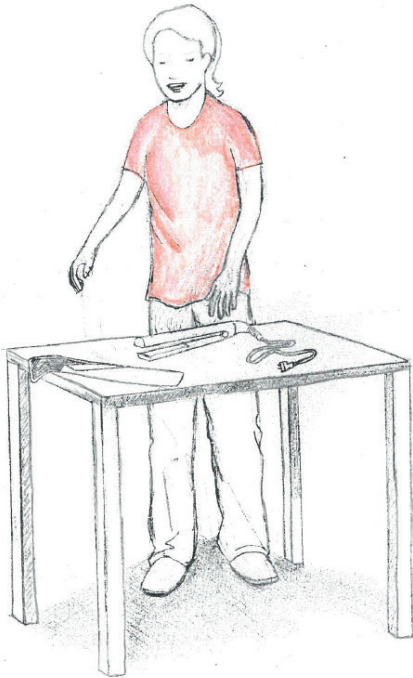
"If it is plugged in and he chews on it he could chew through the plastic cover on the wire, and then he might explode!"



Lewis opened his eyes wide. "Explode?"

"No, he wouldn't explode, Lewis!" Sophie scowled at me. "But he would get a very nasty electric shock. You should always put electric cables out of the way and watch that none of them have bare wires. If they do, you mustn't touch them at all but you should tell an adult because bare wires can cause fires, too."

"Here's something else for our list," Sophie had noticed that Mum's hair straighteners were lying on the coffee table.



"These are very hot, so don't touch them. We need to ask your mum to put them away so that the puppy doesn't get them."

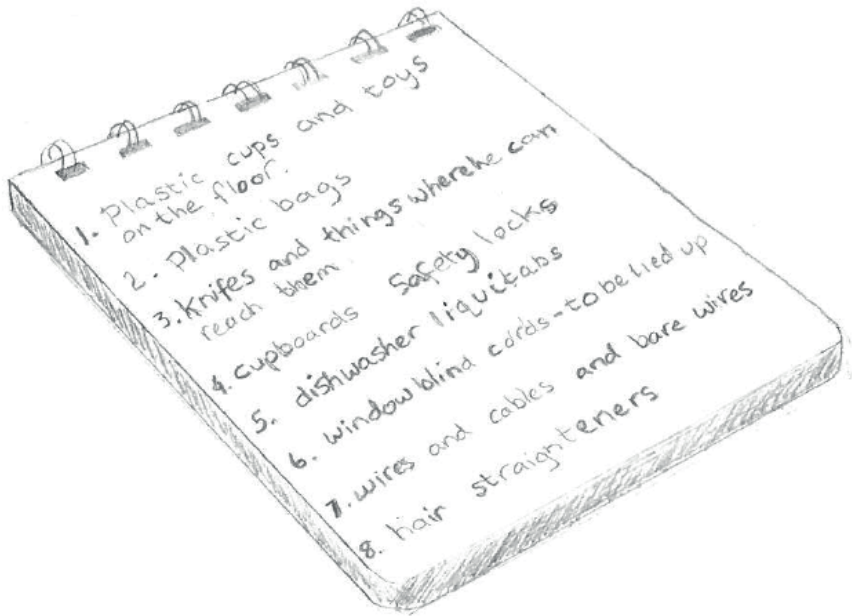
"You've all been working hard on that," Mum said. "Would you like a snack?"

"Yes!" we all said together.

"Off you go and wash your hands first. You have all been playing with the puppy, so you must wash your hands before you eat."

After we washed our hands we went back into the kitchen for a snack and we had another look at our list.

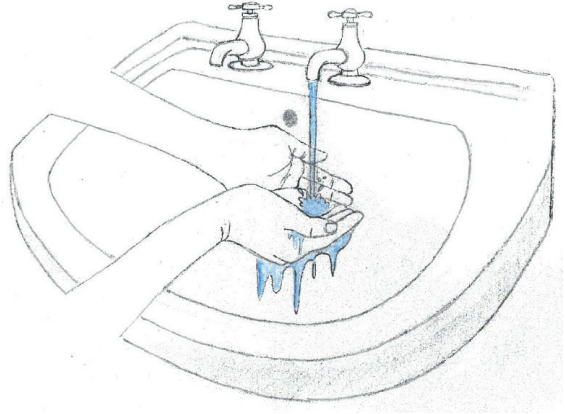
This is the list we made...



"That's a great list," Mum said, as we tucked into our juice and biscuits. "Perhaps it might be an idea to make another list of all the things you need to think about when you have a puppy to look after?"

"What kind of things?" Sophie asked.

Isla put her hand up as if she was at school!



"You have to wash your hands if you have been playing with him!" she said, very pleased with herself.

"That's right, Isla," Mum said.

So I wrote that down on my notepad.

"What else?" asked Mum.

I thought of something very important. "You have to remember to feed him!"

We thought of lots of things. Can you guess what they were?

I wrote them all down and we put both lists up on the pin board to remind us.

"Lots of things on our lists are important to keep children safe, as well as dogs," Sophie said.

The puppy was sleeping curled up in his bed. "We haven't got a name for him, yet! We can't keep calling him, Puppy." Then I had a great idea. "I think he should be called Chewey!"

Everyone agreed it was a great name for him.



Produced as part of the Go Safe Scotland resource which aims to provide every primary school child in Scotland with consistent, age appropriate safety messages

www.gosafescotland.com/AdditionalResource/List/2

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