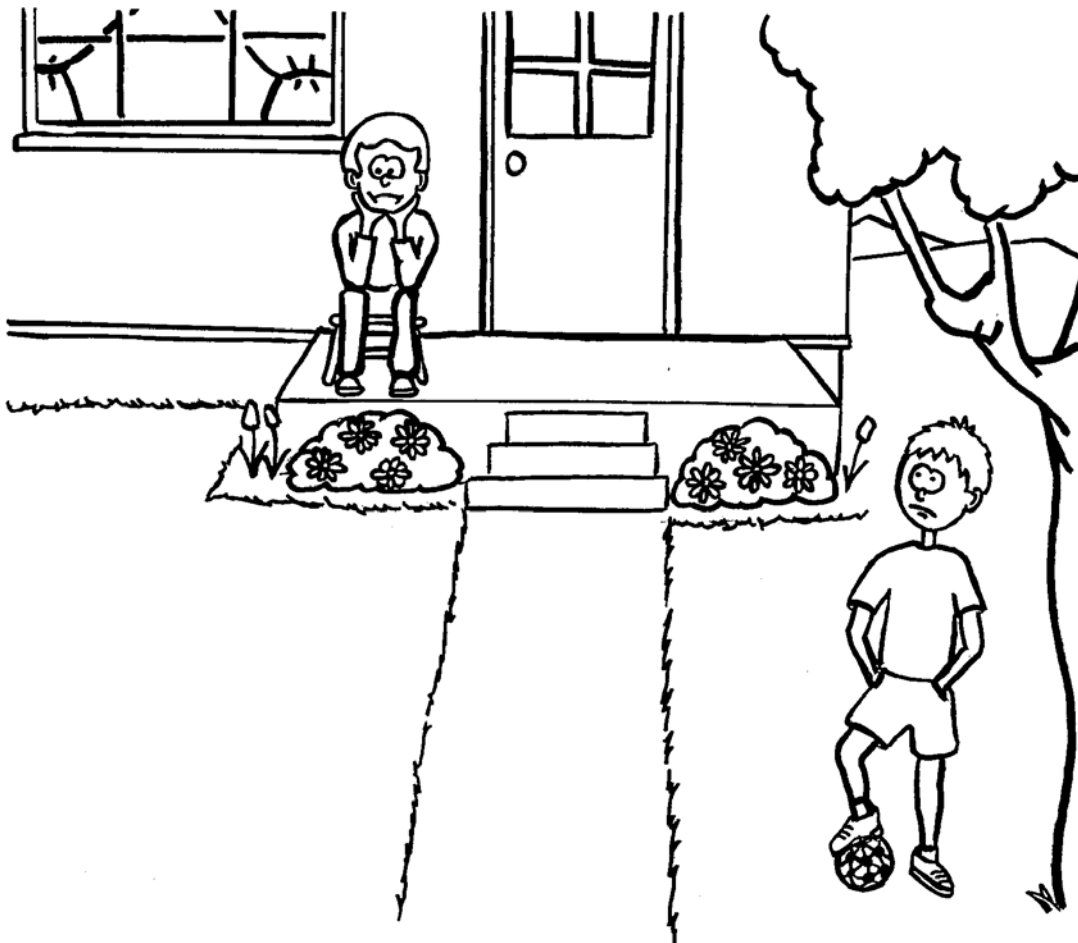




Patient Education

How can I help my Daddy?

An educational colouring book to help understand acquired brain injury.

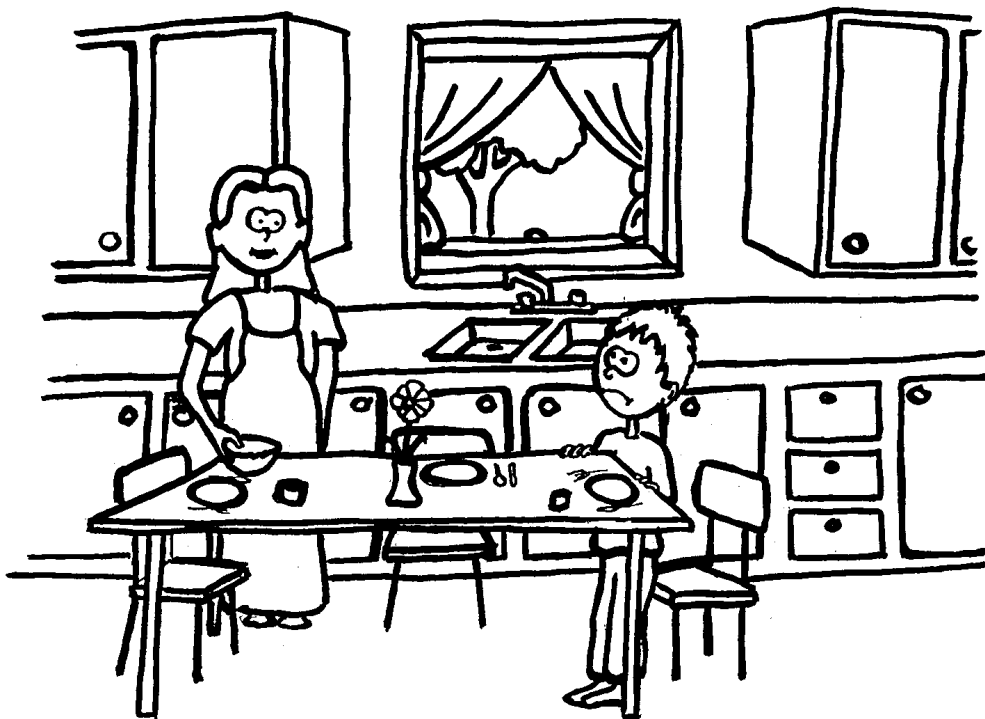


“Why does daddy yell so much?” Matthew asked his mother. They were setting the kitchen table for dinner.

“Daddy is still getting better from his car accident. He doesn’t want to yell. I know he feels bad about it,” his mother answered.

“If he feels bad about it, why does he do it?” asked Matthew. His mother saw that Matthew was sad.

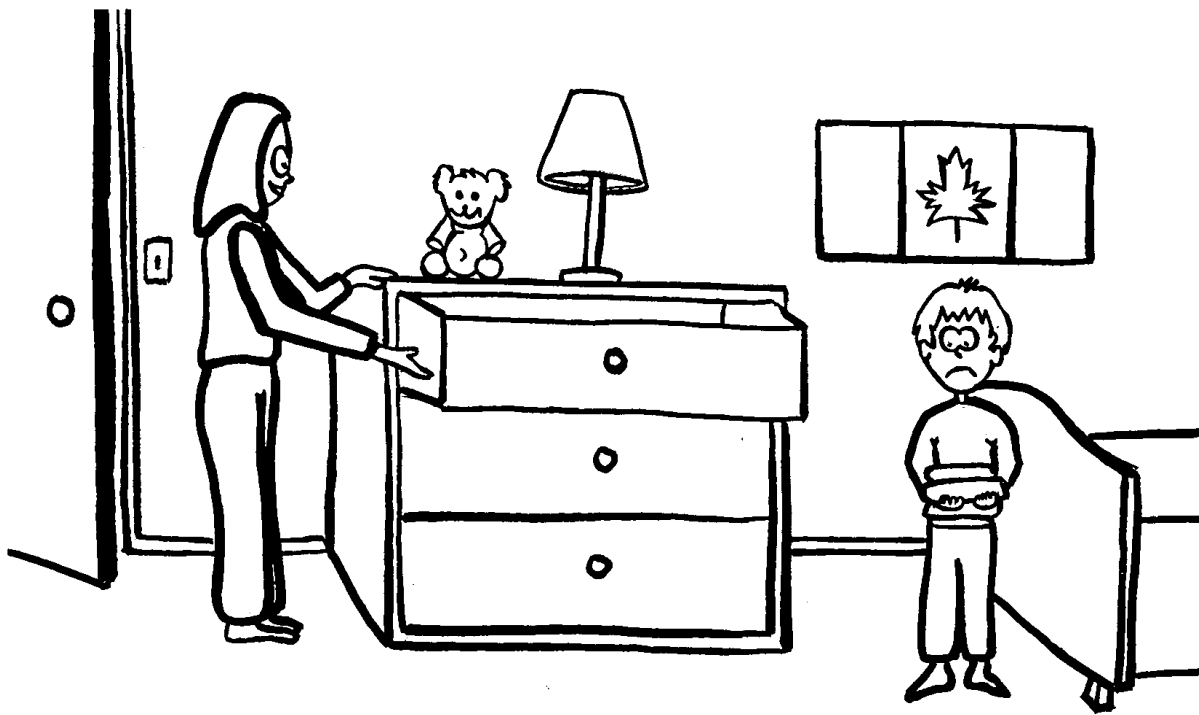
His mother promised to explain that night at bedtime.



“You know that Daddy was in the car accident, Matthew. When he hit his head, his brain got hurt. He has a lot of headaches Matthew, and noise makes them worse. He also gets grumpy because his brain doesn’t work like it used to. Have you noticed that daddy has trouble remembering things we tell him or finding the words he wants to say?”

Matthew nodded. “Like when he forgot my soccer game on Tuesday?”

“That’s right,” said his mother. “Daddy can’t pay attention when a lot of things are happening at the same time. His brain has to work harder, Matthew, and this makes him very tired.”



Matthew listened quietly to his mother, and then thought for a minute. "Will he get better?" he asked.

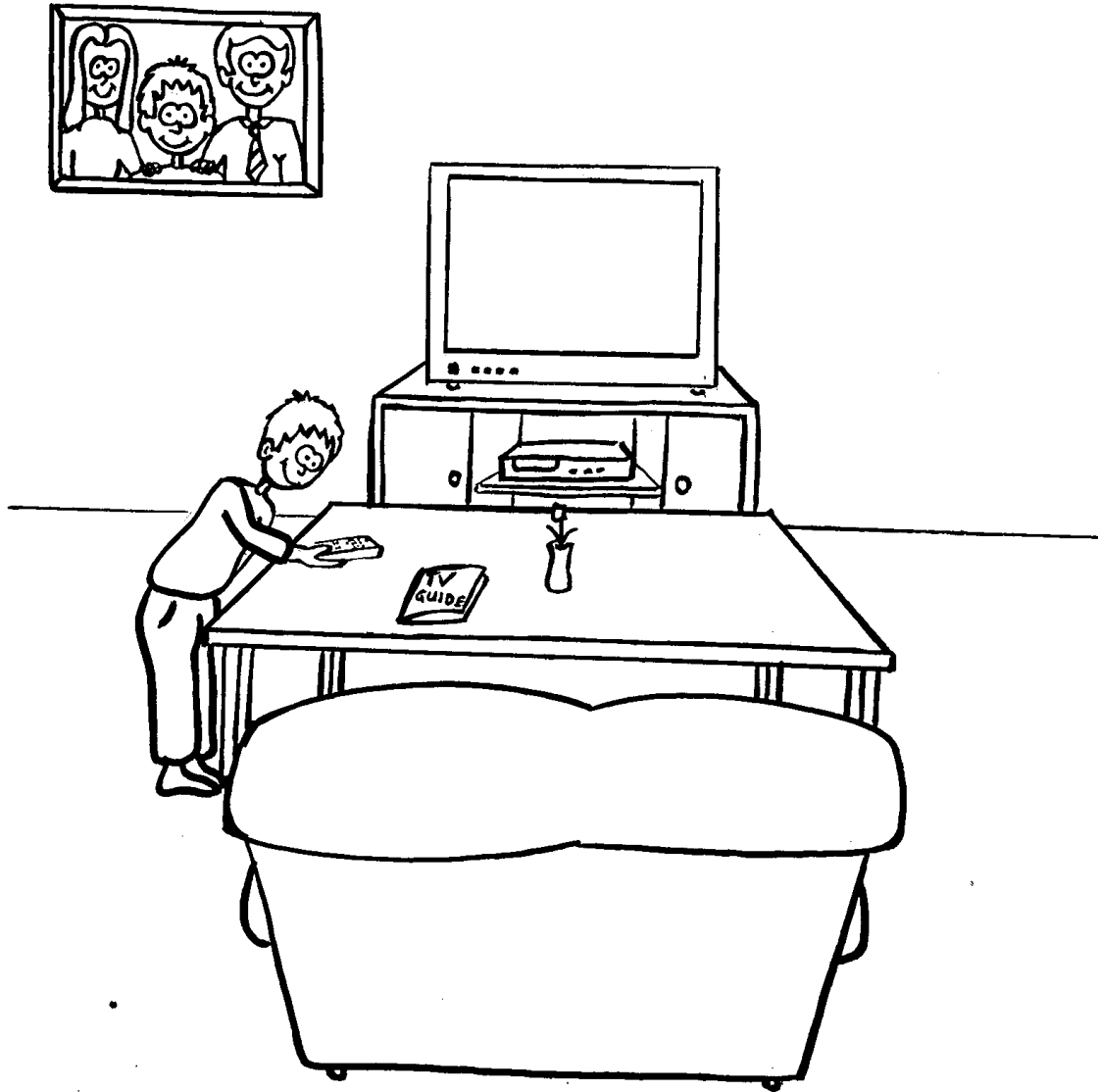
"Yes, he will," answered his mother. "But the brain takes a lot longer to get better than a broken arm or leg, so we'll have to be patient. But we can help him get better too."

Matthew's face lit up. "I can help Daddy get better?" he asked.

"Yes, you can," his mother answered. "Tomorrow, I'll show you how."



“If we put everything back where it belongs, then Daddy won’t get mad when he’s trying to find things.”

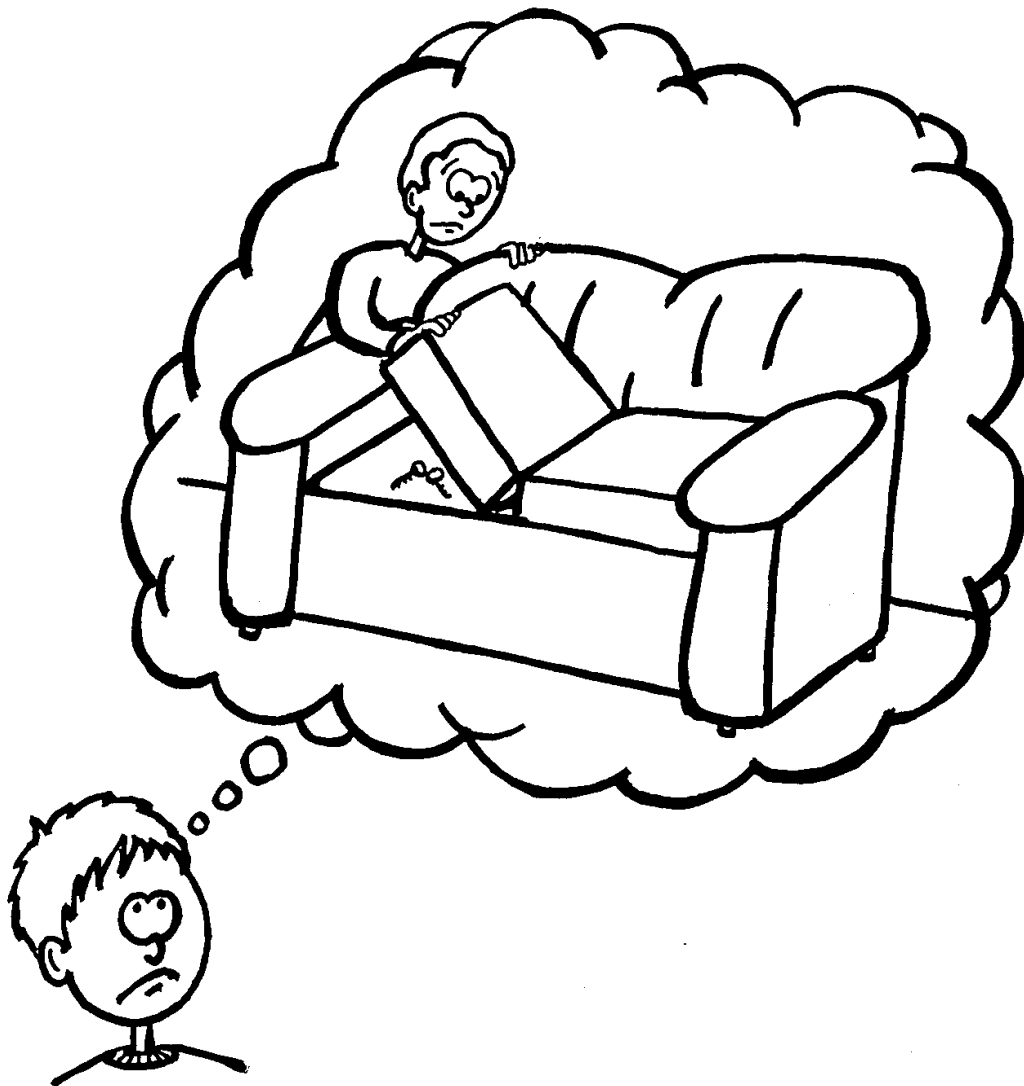


“If we keep the noise down in the house, then Daddy’s headaches won’t feel so bad,” said mother. She was hanging a sign over the stereo that said, “Please keep sound low.”



“How can we help Daddy find his keys and wallet when he wants to go out?” asked mother.

Matthew rolled his eyes. It seemed like his father always forgot where he put his keys. He helped him find them many times. He thought for a minute.



“Hey! You always want me to put my backpack and shoes in the same place when I come home from school. We could hang a shelf by the front door. Daddy could put his keys and wallet there every time he comes home!” Matthew said smiling.

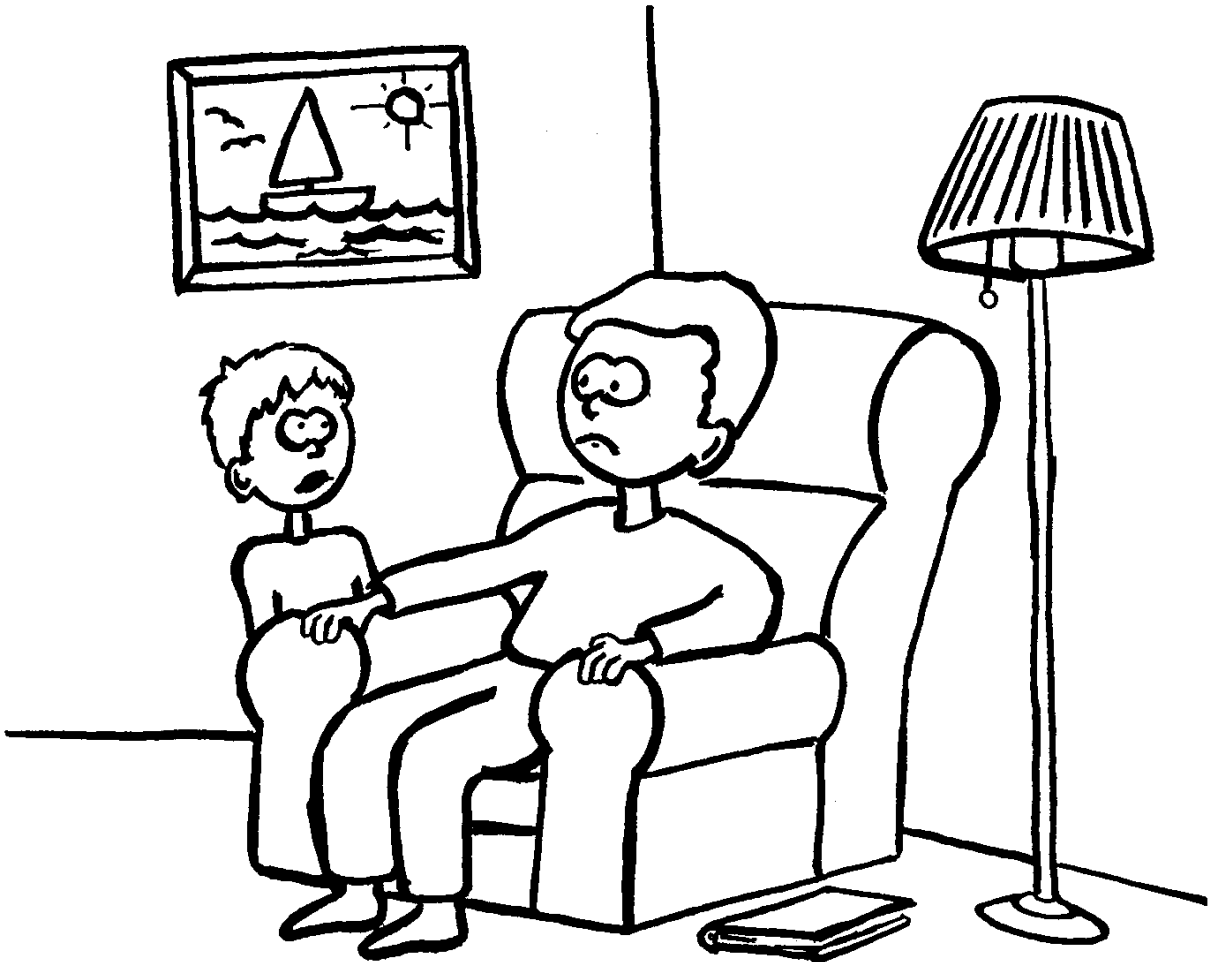
So that’s what they did.

“This is a great idea, Matthew,” said his mother, as they put the shelf up together.



“Daddy, will you get better?” asked Matthew that evening.

“Yes, Matthew,” replied his father. “The doctor said that I’ll get better, but it takes a long time. She doesn’t know if I’ll be able to do everything just like I used to. But she did say that I can learn new ways to do things.”



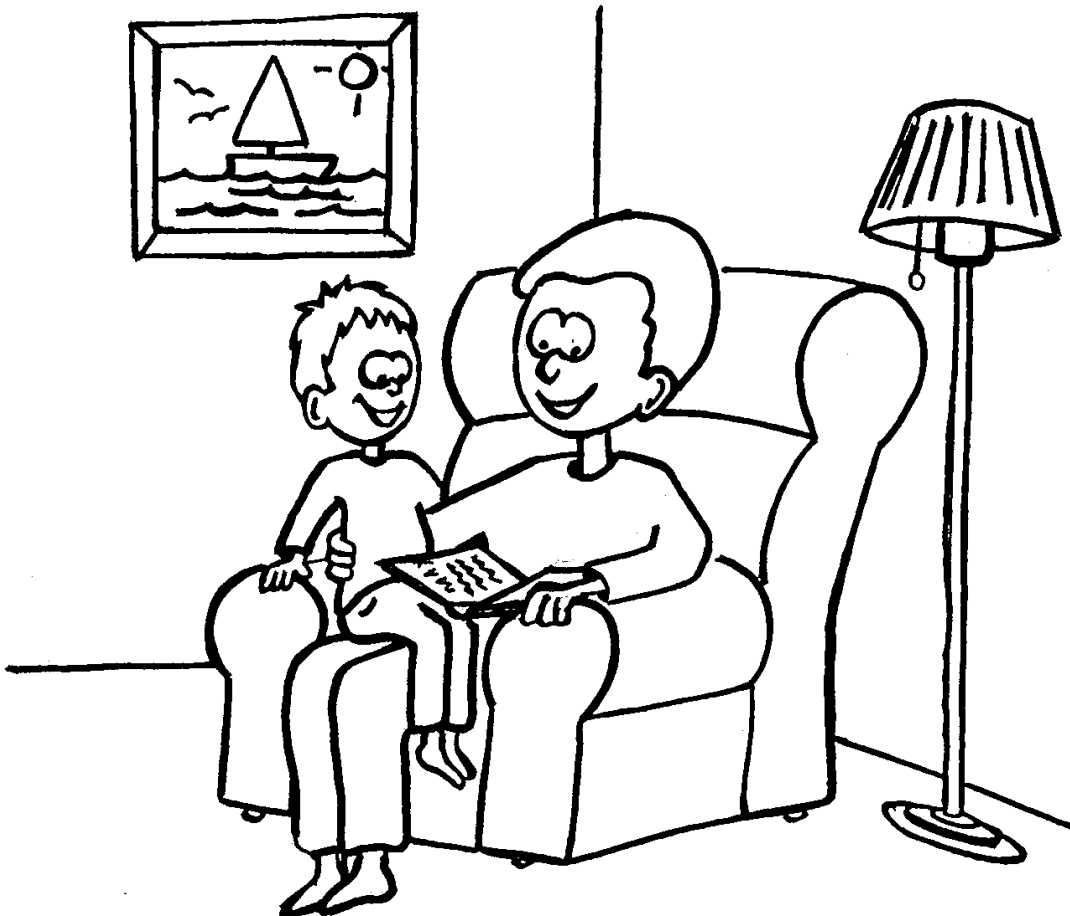
“Look here, Matthew.” His father opened up a black book on the table beside them. “This is my new calendar. When I can’t remember things I need to do, I can look them up in my book.”

“Can we put my soccer games in your book?” asked Matthew.

“We sure can,” replied his father.

Matthew felt better. Now he knew how he could help his father. “I hope you get better soon, Daddy.”

“Thanks, Matthew,” replied his father. “Me too.”



**Produced by the
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**Illustrations by: Adrian Olmstead
Narration by: Anna Rizzotto**

**For more information or to order more copies, call the
Acquired Brain Injury Program at 905-521-2100, ext. 74101
or 1-866-322-0722 (toll free).**