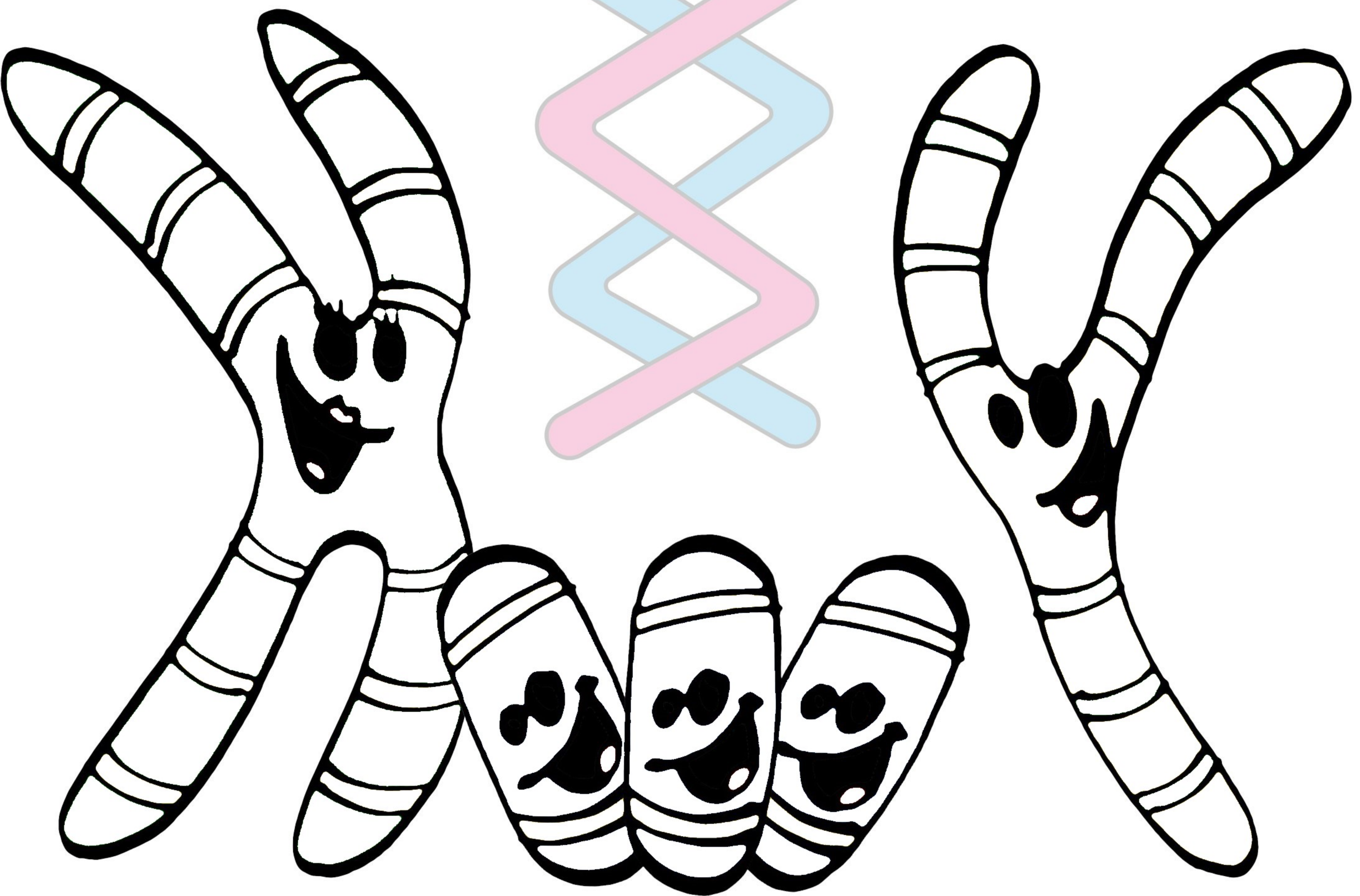


The Right Start
Foundation

Presents:

"Defining Down
Syndrome"



THE RIGHT START FOUNDATION PRESENTS:

DEFINING DOWN SYNDROME



Cover & design, Copyright © 2021 by Tony Rocha Newton

Interior Illustrations by Tanya Nicholls & Tony Rocha Newton

Story by Isabel Rocha Newton, Shannon Browning, Martin Gregory Theobald & Tony Rocha Newton

The Right Start Foundation characters Ecks, Tee-21 & Whi are Copyright/ TM 2020 The Right Start Foundation Ltd – no parts may be reproduced without the express permission of the author/ artist.

Contact: tnewton6969@gmail.com

Website: <http://tonynewton70.wix.com/home>

This is a work of fiction and parody. Names, characters, businesses, places, events and incidents are either the products of the author's imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

As a reflection of Campbelltown City's recognition of the deep ongoing history and culture of this land, we pay respects to the Dharawal People, the Traditional Custodians of the land, we are meeting and travelling on today. Dharawal land has always been recognised as a meeting place for people from other lands. We value the traditions, culture, aspirations, and the principal contributions that our traditional owners have made. We acknowledge Elder's past, present and emerging for their spiritual connection and continuing traditions as part of our Campbelltown communities.

RSF INTRODUCTION:

The Right Start Foundation Ltd is a charitable organisation which was started in 2010 by a group of parents whose children have Down syndrome. These parents dedicated themselves to ensuring that children with Down Syndrome could receive all the support they could get, to set them on the road to a happy and rewarding life.

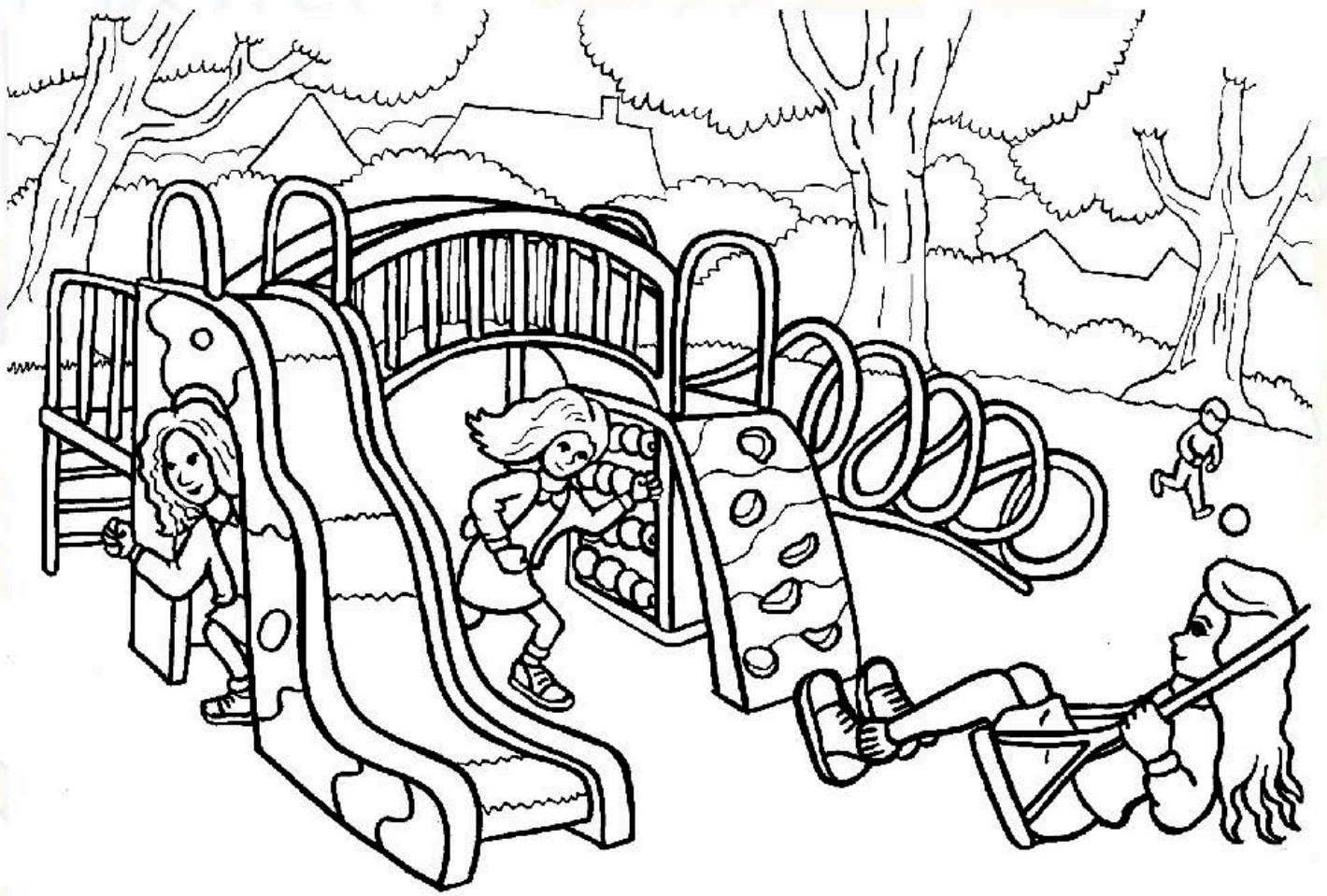
The Right Start Foundation is committed to raising awareness about Down syndrome. We know that people with Down syndrome can achieve their highest goals, reach their dreams and lead rich and rewarding lives. They also can be integral and invaluable contributors to their communities.

The Right Start Foundation has created a video that combines live action and animation to engage and educate school aged children on what Down Syndrome (or Trisomy-21) is, clarifying the fact that even though there are some differences between a person with and without Down syndrome, there are also many similarities.

We aim to show the video to students of public and private schools initially in the Macarthur region, so the children can understand and include their peers with Down Syndrome both in the school setting and in the community. The benefits to the community at large are a better understanding of T21 and how it affects individuals and become more supportive & inclusive. It will show that it is not something to be feared but embraced and that inclusion as well as differences are a good thing. The lesson that we're all different but equal and that it's OK not to be like everyone else is very powerful.

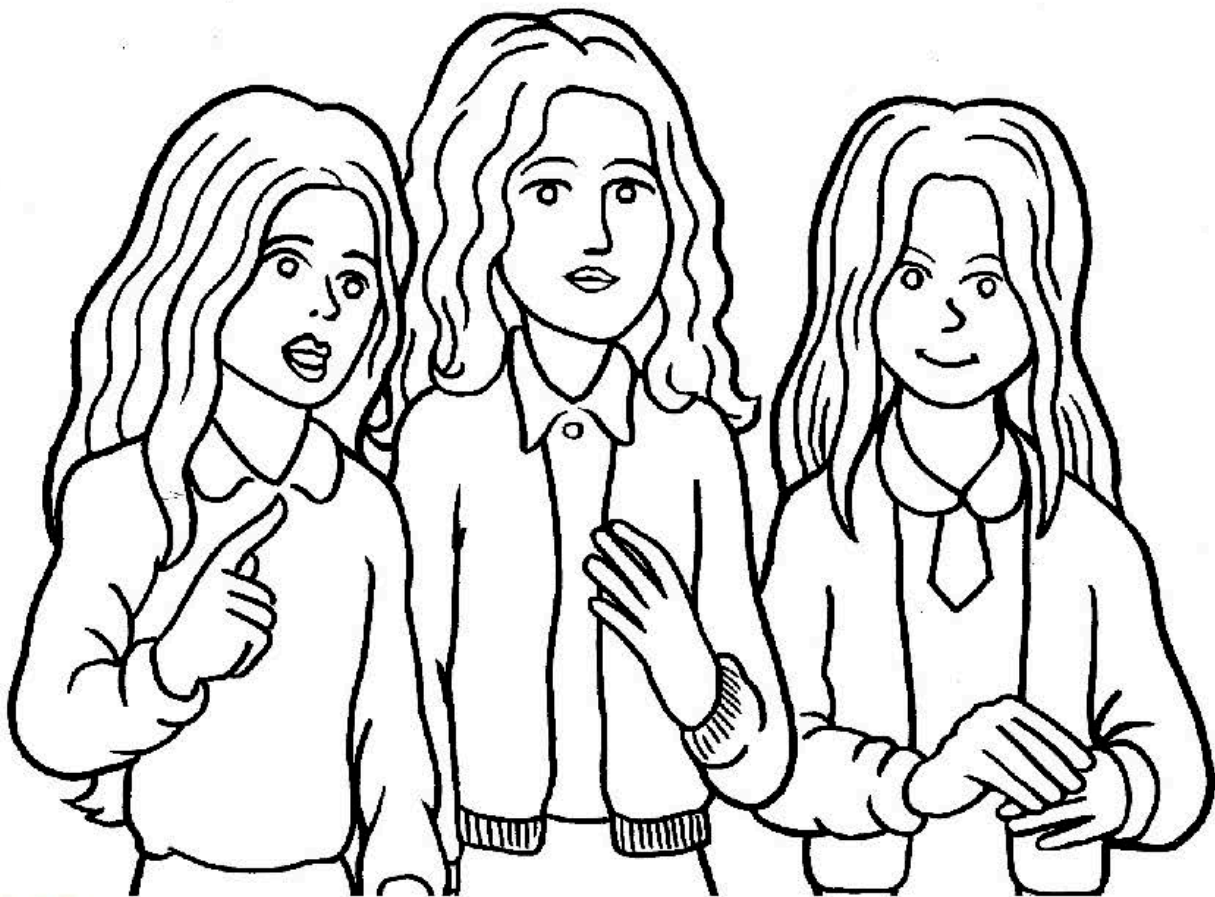


The Right Start
Foundation



It's a bright, sunny day in downtown Sunnyvale. Three girls, all dressed in matching school uniforms, are playing on some playground equipment. They are going down the slides, laughing and playing with each other. They are good friends with each other, Erika, Eva & Ava.

As one of the girls gets to the bottom, she looks over at the field next to the equipment. A boy wearing a similar school uniform is off in the distance, playing with a soccer ball all by himself.

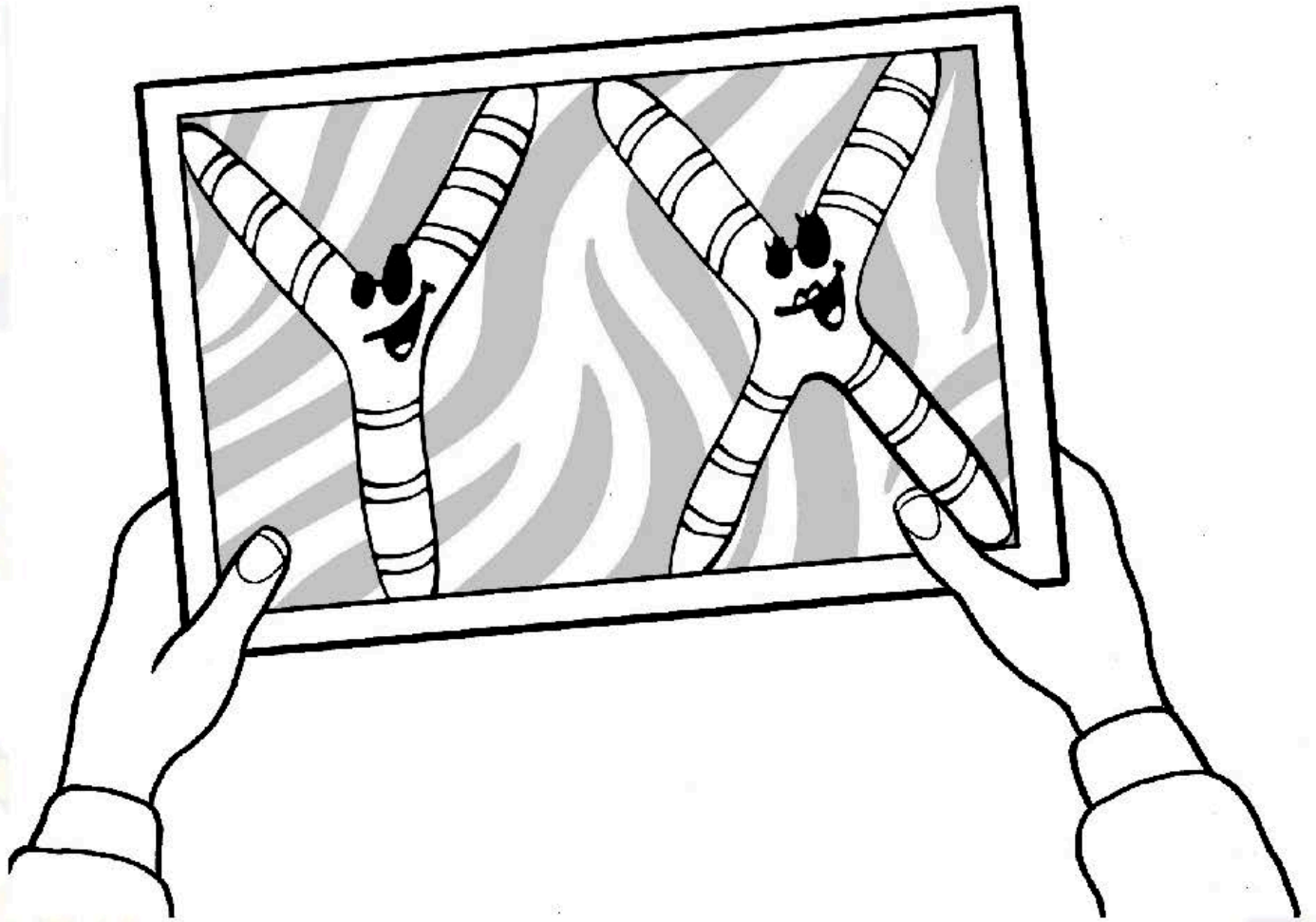


Erika asks Eva "Who's that?" Eva replies "That's the new kid. I think his name's Caleb." They begin to ask each other if they had met him when Ava looks up from her Tablet-Pad & tells them – "I did. I tried talking to him, but I had a really hard time understanding him. It sounded like he had an accent." Erika takes a guess that he may be from a different country. Ava says, "No. I asked my teacher about it, and she said he has something called Down Syndrome."

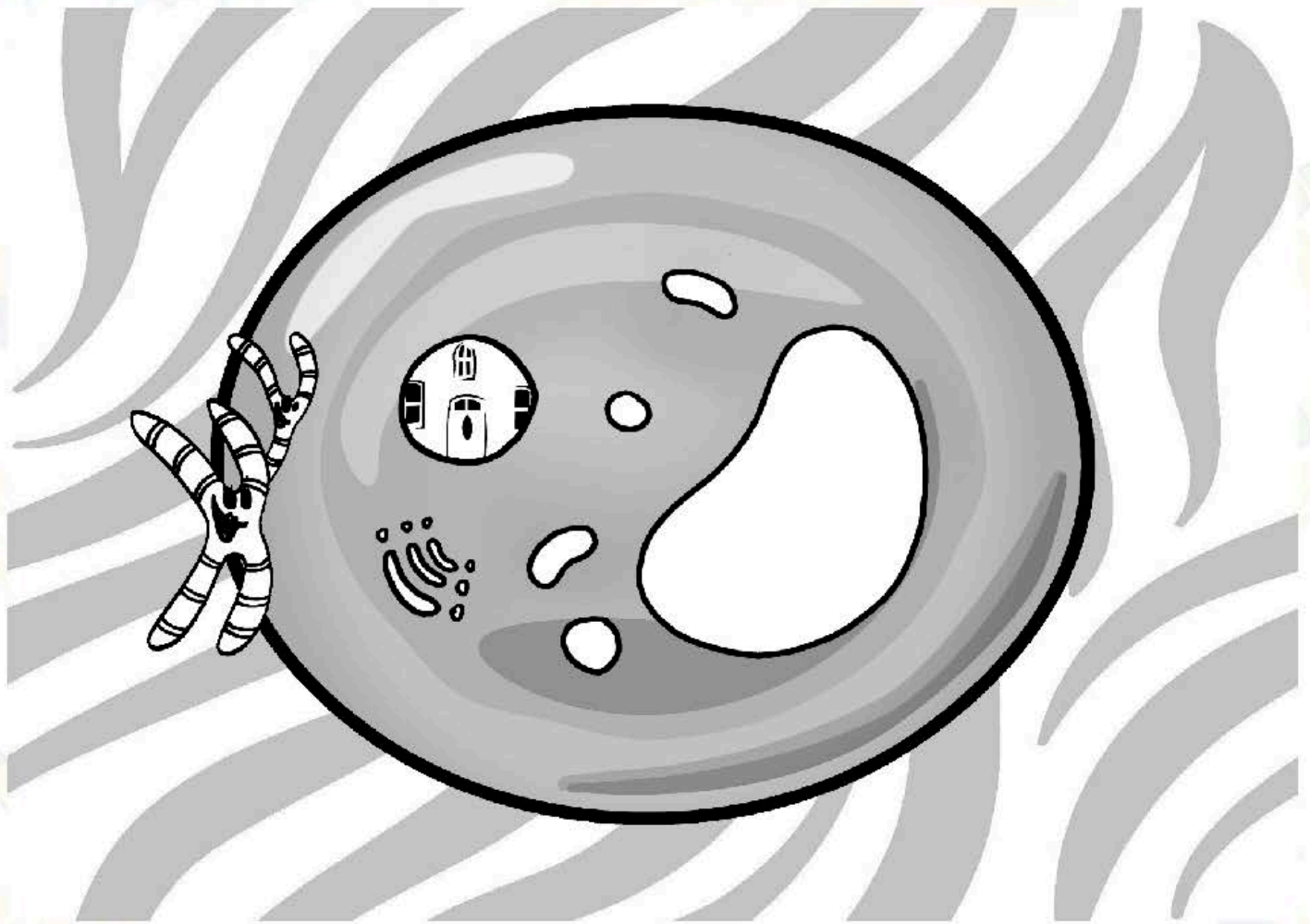


Erika & Eva look confused & ask: 'What's Down-Syndrome?' Ava has not heard of it before & they begin to wonder at what this new condition could be. They eventually decide that it sounds a bit serious & that they should stay away from him, just in case.

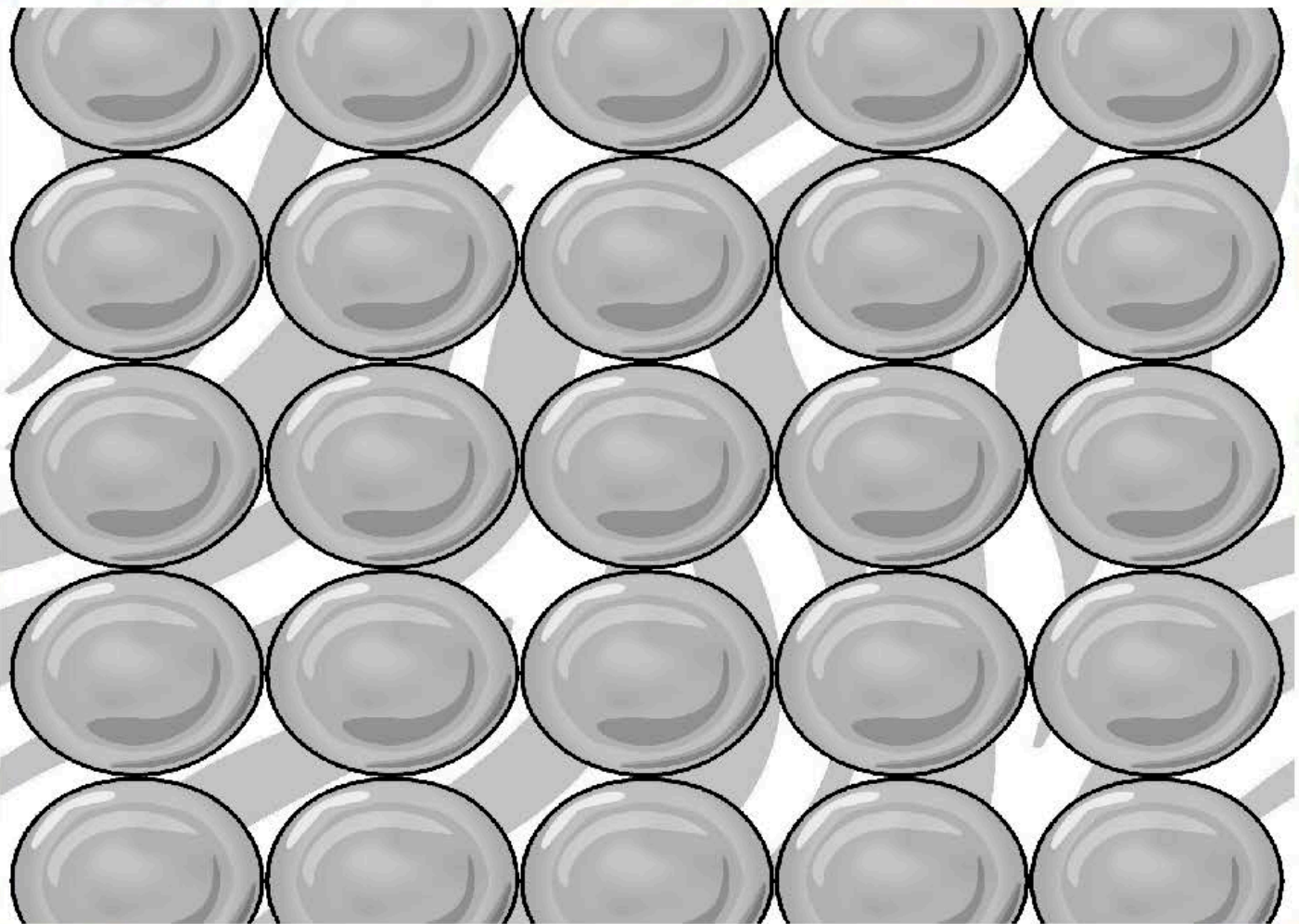
Suddenly the sound of a digital ringtone starts coming from the Tablet-Pad. The kids gather around the screen as Ava answers, fully expecting more friends or her mum & dad.



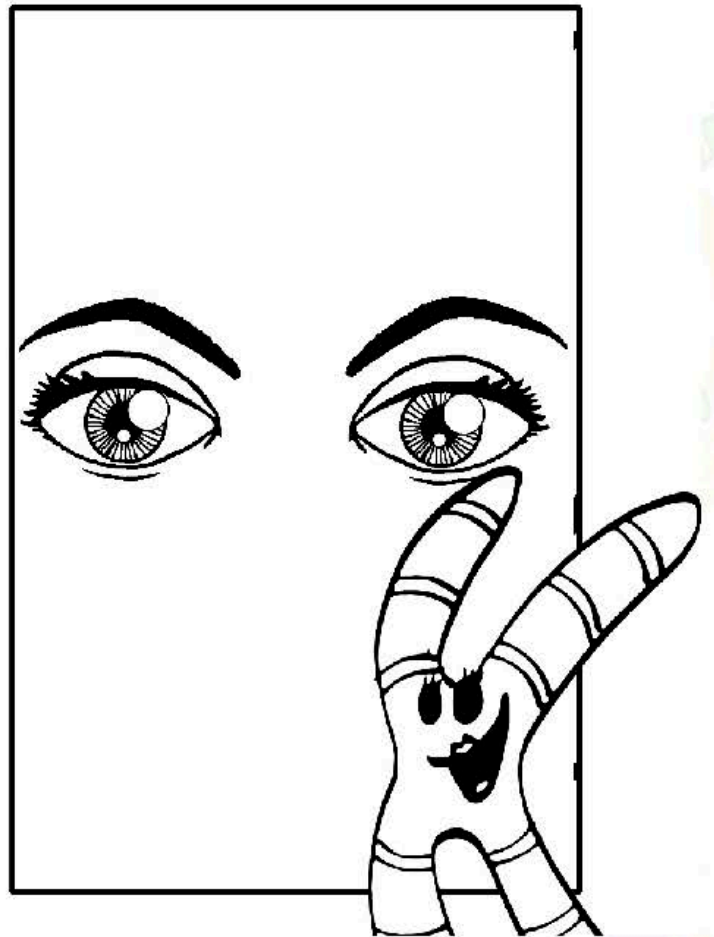
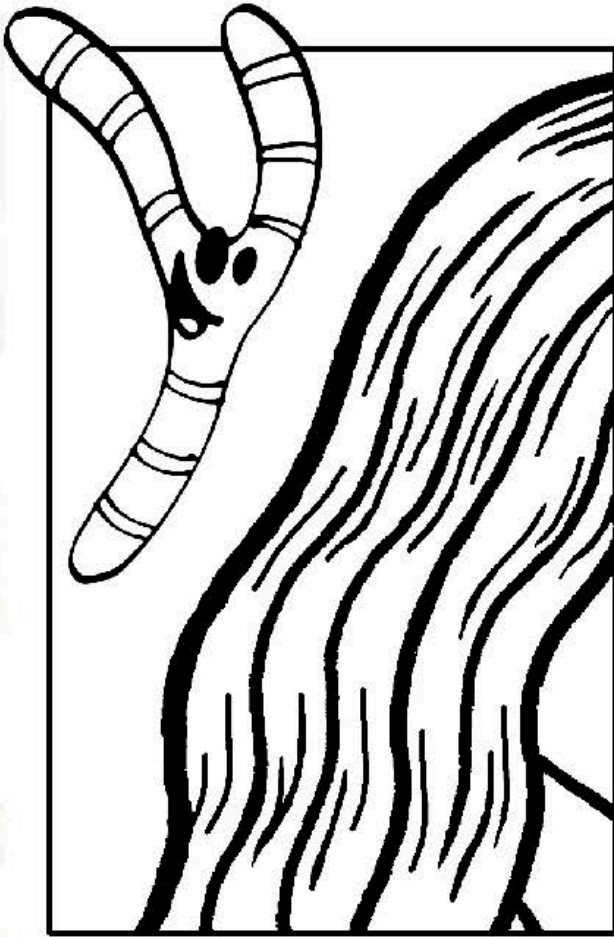
However, on the screen two animated characters, an X and a Y. The kids are surprised as they seem to be talking to them! When they ask who they are – they are told by the X-shaped character: “I’m Ecks and he’s Whi. We’re Chromosomes!” The kids look confused, what’s a chromosome? They have never heard of anything like that before!



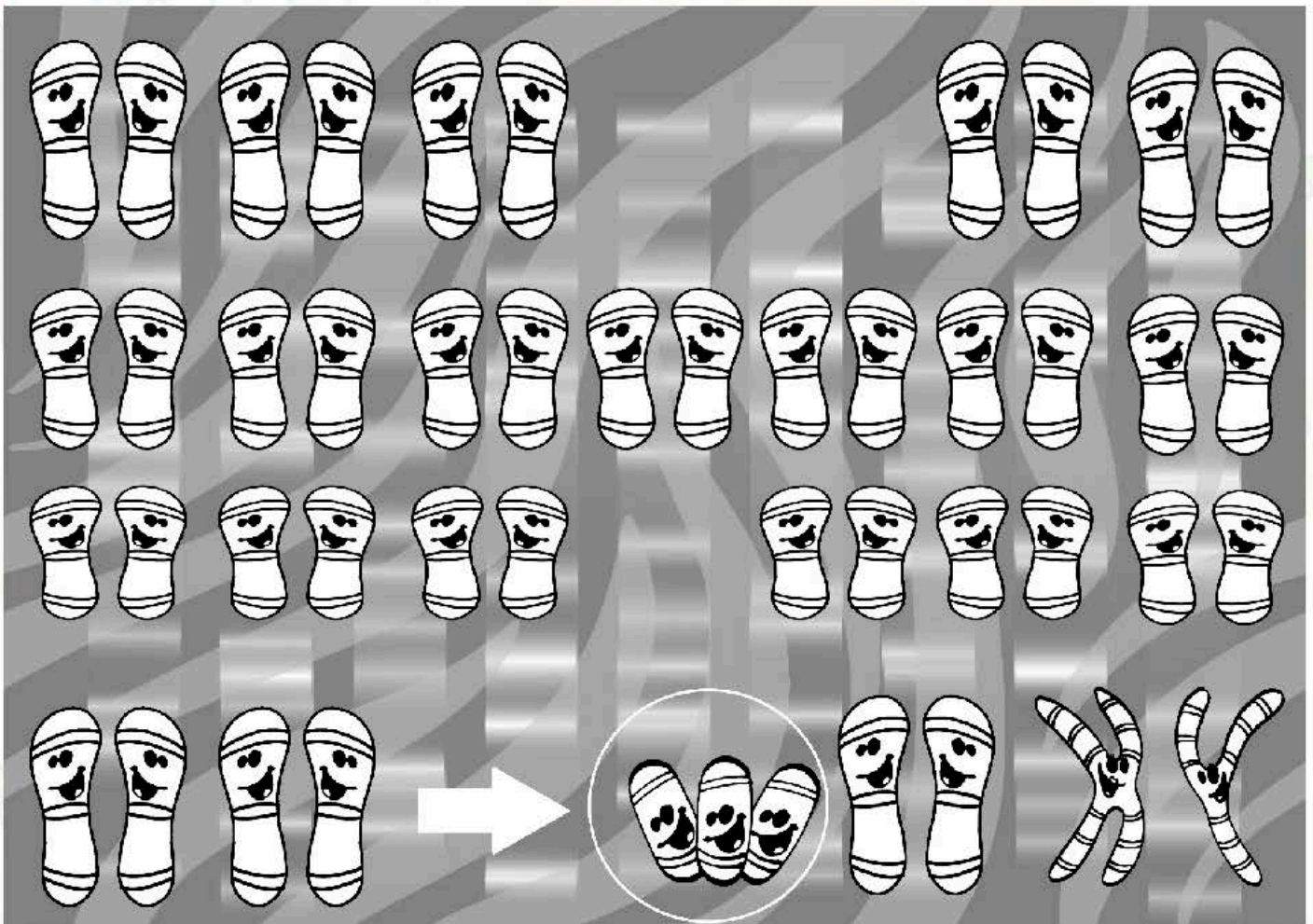
Ecks & Whi begin to tell them more as they head **INSIDE** a human cell to their house – in the Nucleus. Chromosomes are tiny structures that live inside all living things! Even you guys! We're so small, you'll never see us! But we have a really big job that we're in charge of.



You see, all your bodies are made up of tiny round chambers called cells. They're the building blocks of all life.

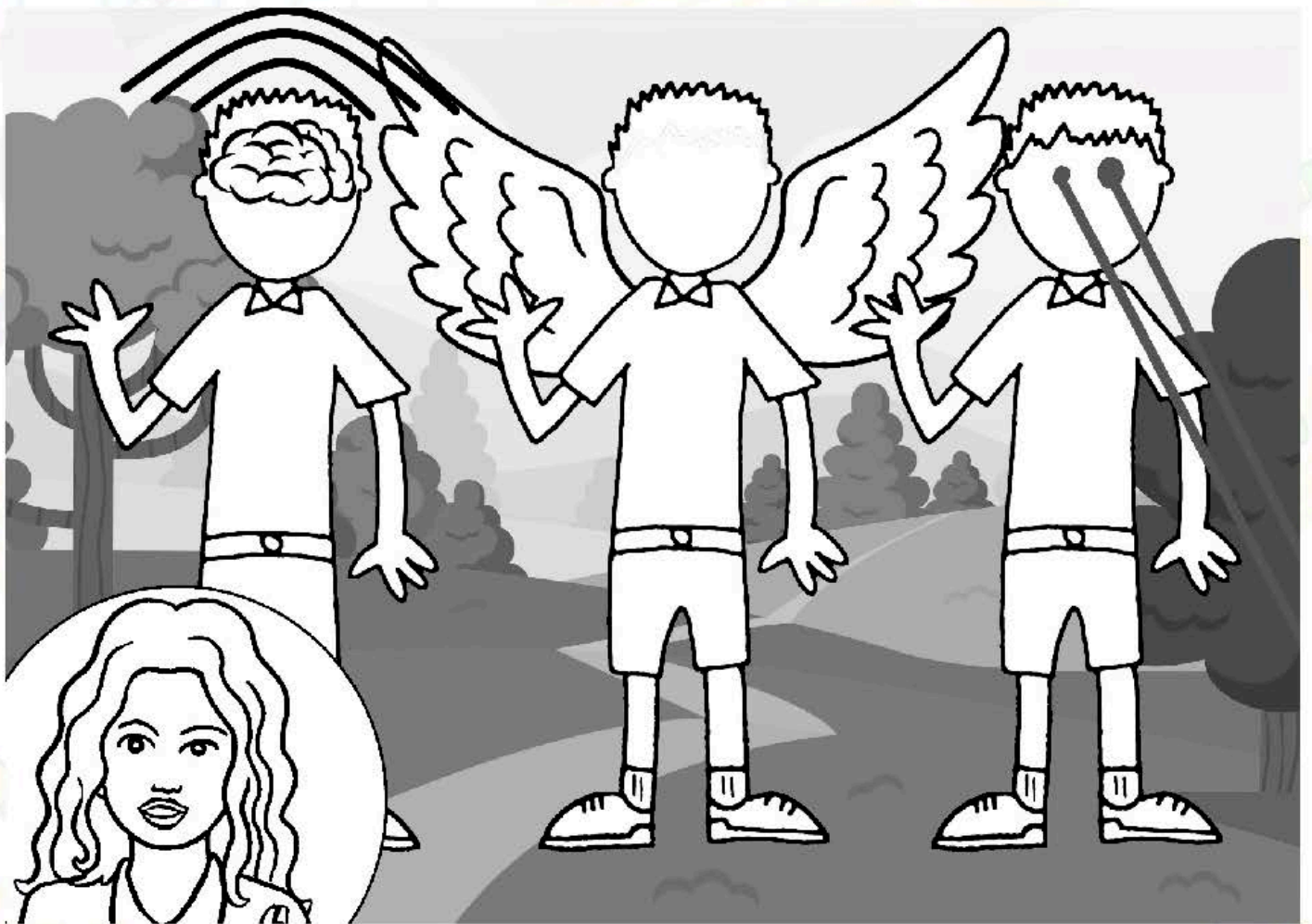


Every cell has a set of instructions called chromosomes, like us! We tell your body how to be you – we say what your hair colour is, what your eye colour will be... suddenly Ecks asks the girls a very important question – “Do you girls like chocolate?” They all respond with a resounding YES! Who doesn’t like chocolate?! Whi tells them “That was us!” at which all the girls are VERY thankful for!

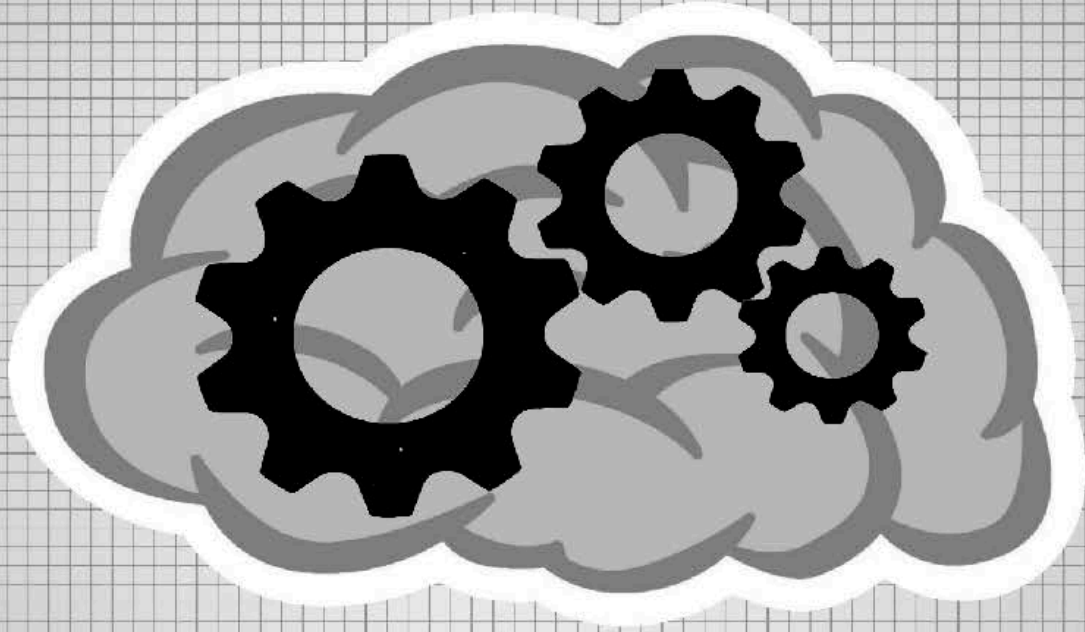


The 2 chromosomes continue with their information. Now most people have 46 sets of instructions in every cell. But a few very special people have an extra set, giving them 47. That extra set leads to the condition known as Down Syndrome, like Caleb!

It also has the scientific name of Trisomy 21 because people with Down Syndrome have an extra copy of chromosome 21!



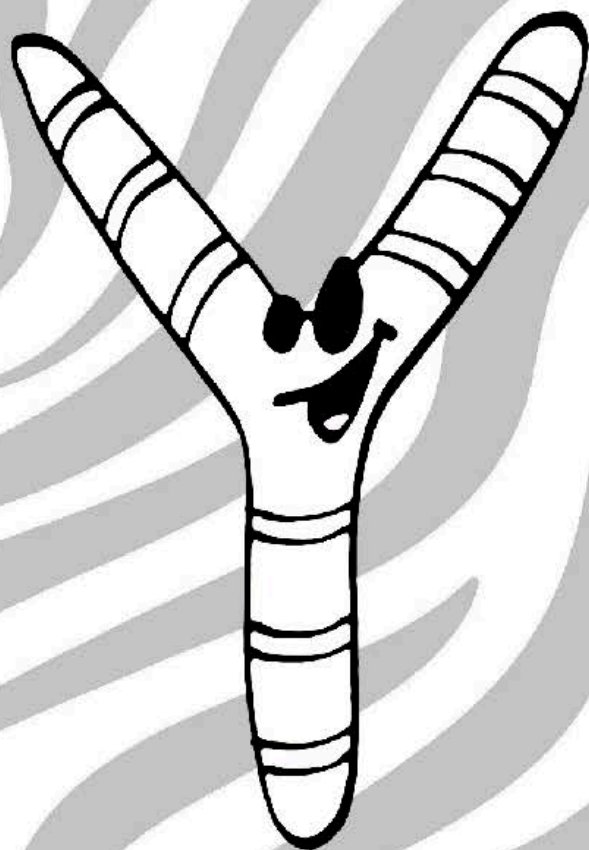
Erika suddenly remembers something & excitedly asks – “They have extras! That’s like the stuff you see in comic books! So, Caleb could grow wings or read minds or shoot lasers from his eyes!” Whi has to tell her that sadly, no, it’s nothing like that.



That extra chromosome can make people with Down Syndrome extra good at doing some things, like being really kind. But it can cause issues with other areas. People with Down Syndrome have an intellectual disability which can have an impact on how they develop.



It can also affect their speech and make it hard for them to communicate. Ava suddenly realises that this is why she couldn't understand what he was saying. Ecks tells her "That's right. So, it might sometimes take a little more patience so you can understand each other. Sometimes the differences in the instructions can have other effects such as different facial features, a difference in height and other more serious problems."

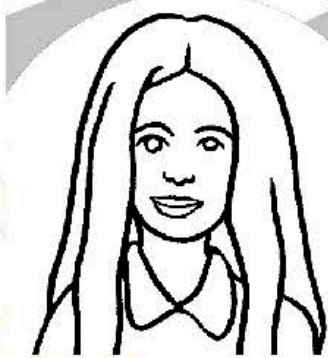


**DIFFERENT
FACIAL FEATURES**

**DIFFERENCE
IN HEIGHT**

**OTHER MORE
SERIOUS
PROBLEMS**

In fact, some people with Trisomy have problems with their diets and needing a lot of extra therapies like speech or physiotherapy! Down Syndrome can cause low muscle tone, which can mean they can be very flexible... but it also means they must work very hard when doing physical activities and means they often get tired much more easily. Which means that sometimes it will take a lot more effort for Caleb to do the things that you do easily.



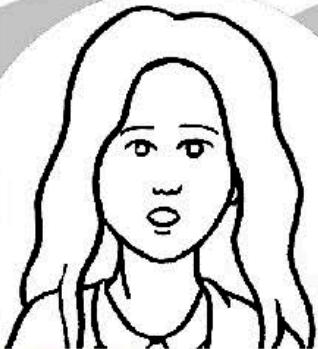
Ava asks Ecks & Whi a question that occurs to her. "When my sister got the mumps, she had to spend all her time in her room, and I wasn't allowed to go near her. Do we have to do that with Caleb?" The 2 chromosomes reply: "Down Syndrome is not an illness that can be passed from one person to another. It's just part of who you are. Just like if you have green eyes or red hair. It's just another one of the things that makes you, you."

DIETS

EXTRA THERAPIES

SPEECH THERAPY

PHYSIOTHERAPY



Now Eva has an idea, & asks Ecks & Whi: "Well can't they just give him some medicine that can help him?" They get their answer from Whi – "No, as it is not something you can catch, there is no cure, Caleb will always have Down Syndrome." But that doesn't make it a bad thing. We are all different and we all have strengths and challenges."



“Down syndrome, or other disabilities are a natural part of life and nothing to be sad or sorry about. People with Down Syndrome want to be accepted and included just like everybody else.” Then the Chromosomes hang up & leave the girls to think about this new information.



The girls have a lot to think about, but it is Erika who springs into action first! She looks over at Caleb & smiles to herself.





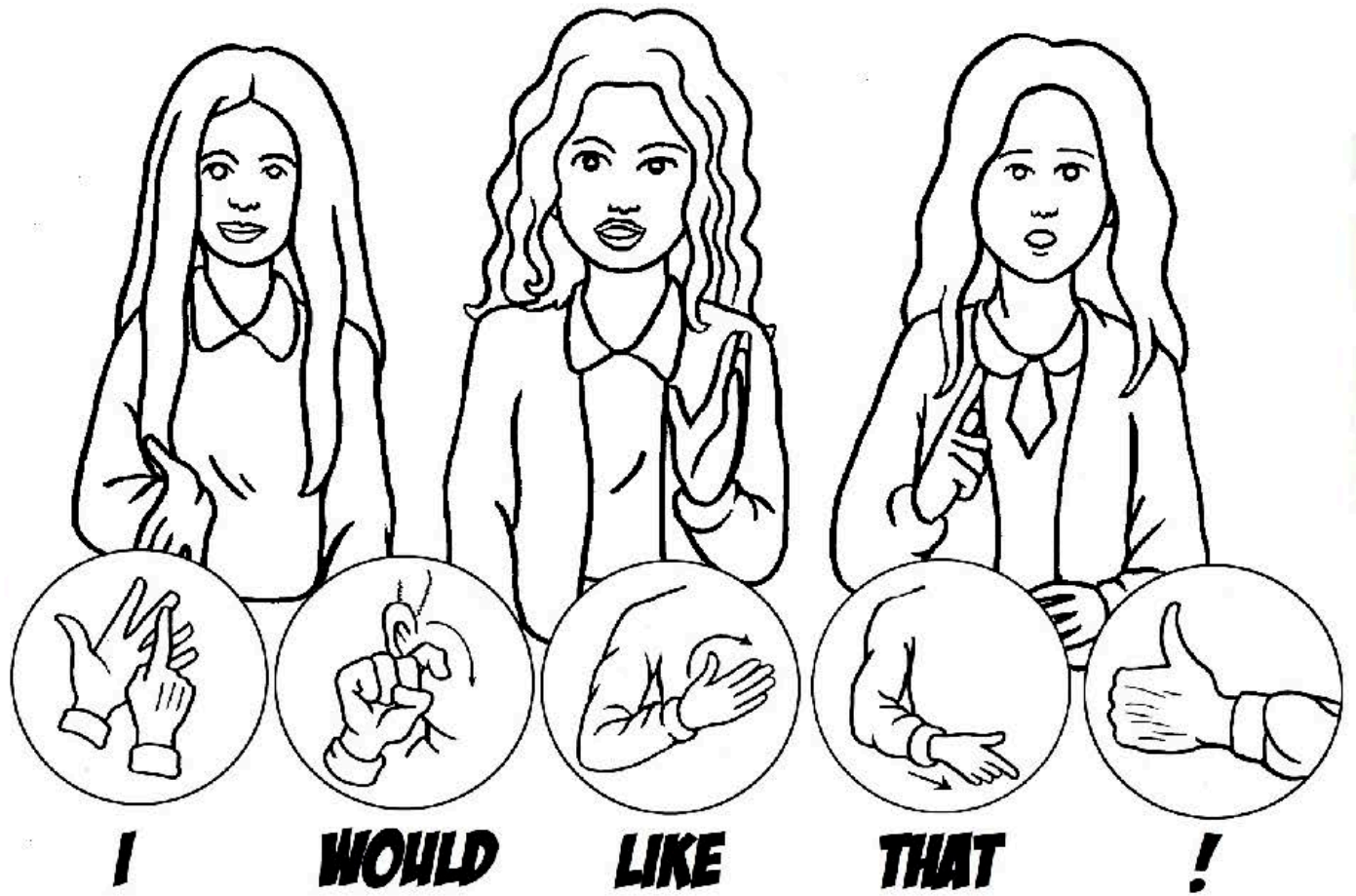
Suddenly she begins to run over to Caleb! Eva & Ava look at each other & smile, they know exactly what to do next & run over as well.



Erika arrives first, she excitedly yells “Hey Caleb!” Caleb looks up to see the girls. He smiles and waves enthusiastically. Erika continues her introductions. “Hi Caleb! I’m Erika! This is Ava and Eva. Can we play with you?”



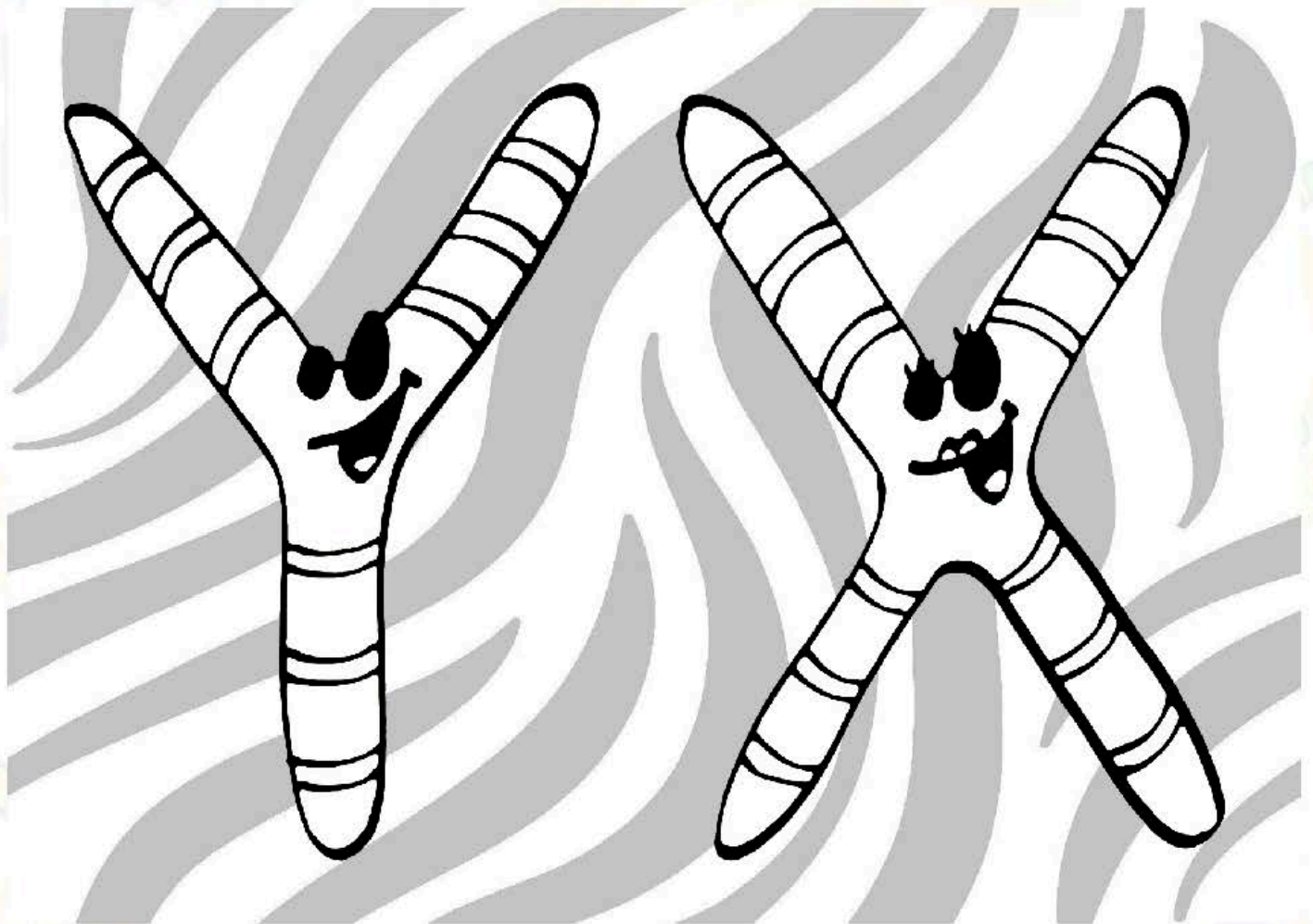
Caleb is beaming ear to ear at his brand-new friends. He tells them “I would like that!” & he also moves his hands in a mysterious way as he does so.



The girls notice he has a mechanical device stuck to his head near his ear & realise he is also hearing impaired; he has a hearing aid! He was telling them he would like them to join him in sign language as well! That, they thought, was way cool to know & start to learn!

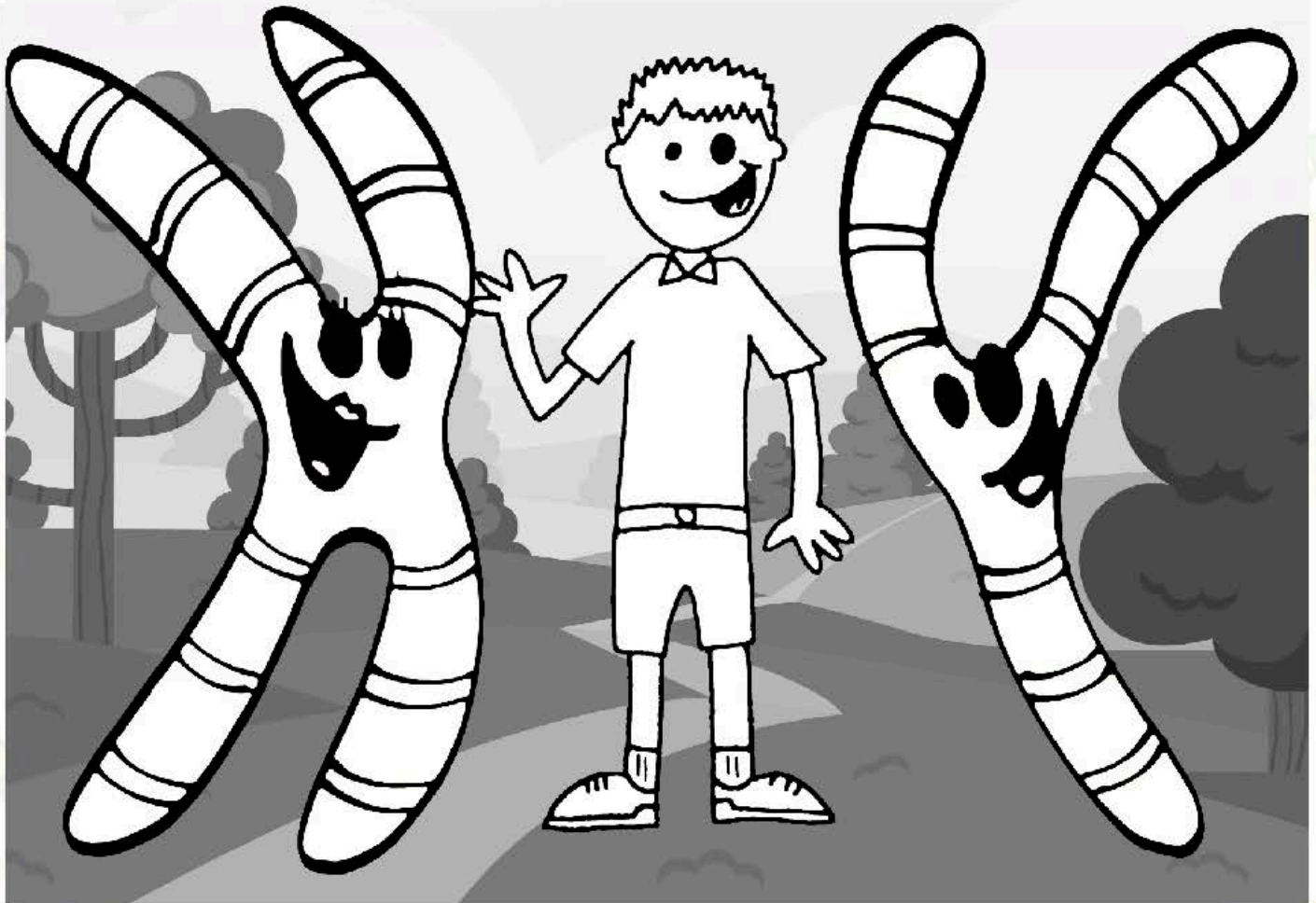


The kids proceed to play soccer, running and kicking the ball to each other & having fun with their new friendship just beginning!



While they have fun, Ecks & Whi have a few more things to tell you, dear reader: In the past, people thought that children with disabilities **ONLY** belonged in special needs schools. And even though some children still go to special schools, we now know that many children with disabilities can benefit from participating in an inclusive mainstream school.

With the right supports in place, many people with Down Syndrome can achieve great things, participate as valued members of their community, have jobs and live independently when they are adults.



In fact, once you understand more about it, hopefully you will be encouraged to see the person rather than the disability. Everyone needs help sometimes, so if we accept differences without judgement, then everyone can feel like they are included.

THE END

OTHER RSF INFORMATION

Help us help others.

The Right Start Foundation is always accepting donations of any amount; we are grateful for anything you can donate. Donations submitted to our foundation go towards supporting families touched by Down Syndrome and connecting them to the services they need.

We accept donations in many ways - to provide assistance to help people with Down Syndrome to 'get the right start in life' visit www.therightstart.org or visit our Facebook page.

For enquiries, please contact us via our website or Facebook page www.therightstart.org

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram & Youtube



<https://www.facebook.com/RightStartFoundation2.0>



<https://www.instagram.com/rightstartfoundationltd/>



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1v6ENqu_79z81C19NhCYvw



The Right Start
Foundation

Supporting Families touched by DOWN SYNDROME

This comic was created with the talents of the following illustrators & independent Australian comic creators:

STORM PUBLISHING:



Tanya Nicholls is a prolific writer and illustrator of novels and comic books. Tanya is best known for the "Jaeger" series of comic books - a roller coaster ride through the bizarre world of a vampire hitman. Tanya has produced the artwork for Classical Hermetic Magick: Everyday



Empowerment and illustrates selected articles for Spheres magazine.

Tanya completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at New South Wales University and has attended various writing courses since 1989. Tanya lives in Sydney with her husband Owen, where she is a partner in Storm Publishing. She has won the NSW WRITERS AUSTRALIAN TITLE OF THE YEAR: 2004 for her Jaeger Series.

Storm Publishing is also the home of the popular Nocturnal Academy series – a series of 20 books aimed at young readers, the books contain the adventures of students for a school for supernatural beings, such as vampires, were-creatures, shape-shifters, tree spirits and elementals. Here they are trained to fight invaders from the limbo of the Immaterial, a dark, insubstantial realm of imps and demons. Check out the titles at www.stormpublishing.com.au & www.nocturnalacademy.com.au



GHOTI, Inc:



Anthony Rocha-Newton originally of Foolproof Comics in 2002 created “The SuburbanKnights”, garnering acclaim with the independent comics scene plus 2 awards: the NSW SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL: ALTERNATIVE COMIC VENTURE 2005 & the NEWCASTLE WRITERS FESTIVAL: COLLABORATIVE COMIC 2007.



He has also created the mascots for the Queen of Hearts Foundation (plus a mural in their offices) as well as the very mascots used here for the Right Start Foundation.

Now as GHOTI, Inc in 2021, Tony is launching his current creation which is squarely aimed at adults. He does however have all the original superhero items still available & some kid-friendly titles such as his “Hungry Compendium” (which contains new takes on the Hungry Caterpillar story), “Mr. Cthulhu’s 1 Billionth Birthday” & “Potatoes in Jackets”. Check out the titles at <https://tonynewton70.wixsite.com/mysite> & click on BOOKS.



The Right Start Foundation

Supporting Families touched by DOWN Syndrome

The Right Start Foundation Presents: Defining Down Syndrome. Erika, Eva & Ava have a new kid in school called Caleb, but he has something called Down Syndrome. What is it? How should they treat Caleb? This comic based on the RSF video helps children learn more about what Down Syndrome is in a fun, easy to learn way.



WWW.STORMPUBLISHING.COM.AU
WWW.NOCTURNALACADEMY.COM.AU



[HTTPS://TONYNEWTON70.WIXSITE.COM/HOME](https://TONYNEWTON70.WIXSITE.COM/HOME)

Made with the assistance of these illustrators: