
my
baby
is
lovely

This book aims to spark discussions about what parents and families can do to help their little ones feel safe and nurtured.

The book is based on stories from First Nations parents from Gurindji, Jawoyn, Mangarayi, Mara, Ngalakan, Ngarinyman, Warlpiri, and Yolŋu country in the Northern Territory of Australia. The quotes are from interviews with parents, who talked about how they connect with their children and help them feel loved and safe.

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This is how little
ones feel loved
and safe





"I was like telling her stories. I was talking to her, watching her in my stomach and she was like talking back to me. Making the bubbles, the noises. And kicking me. See her hands."


"Talking to her. It's me, mummy. Telling her stories."


"I feel good in my heart
that way she feel good too."


meeting
family



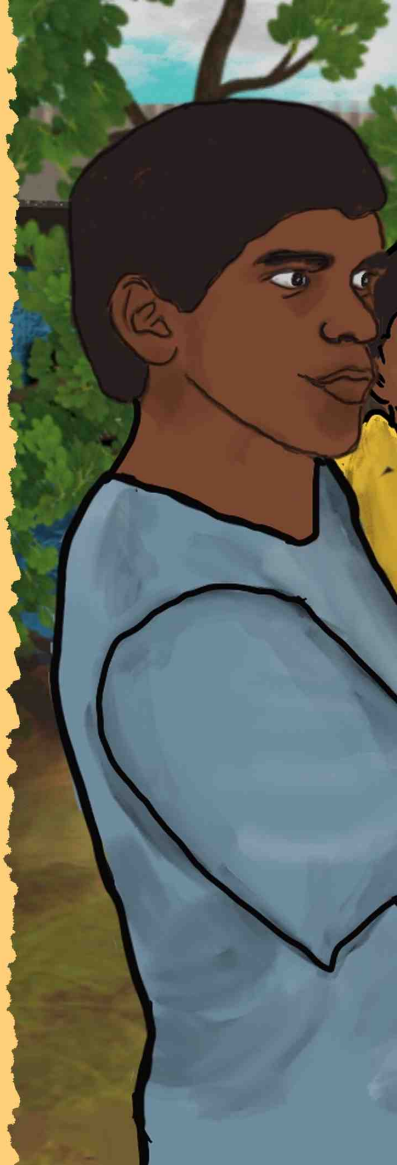




"I tell her who her family
is. And where she's from.
Where her country is.
What her totem is.
What's her dreaming.
I tell her."

"His grandfather tells him his **dreaming stories**, that he knows when he will grow up and he will know what his totem is."

"They **showed** her everything. Like take her out and, like take her to **their place** as well."



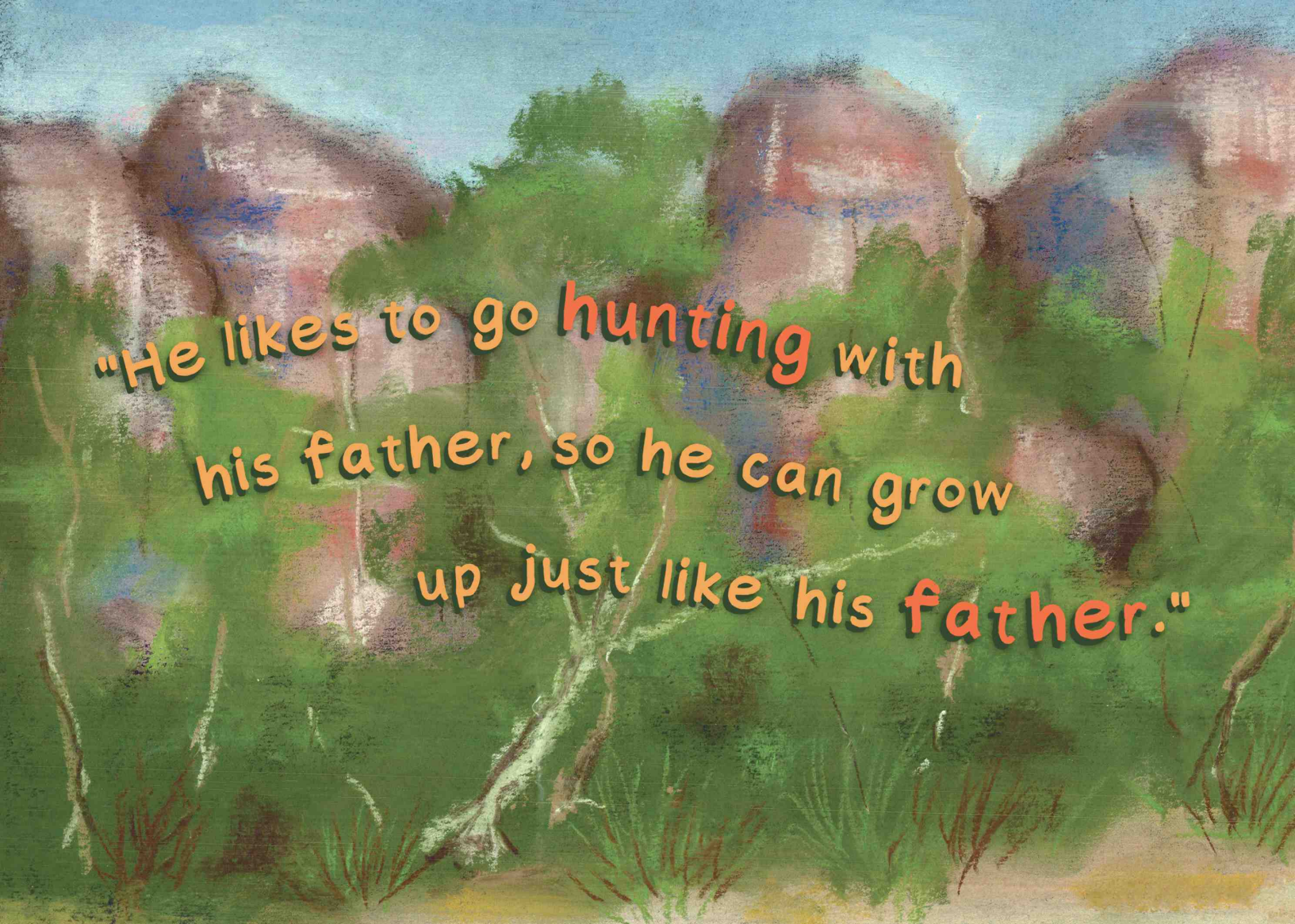






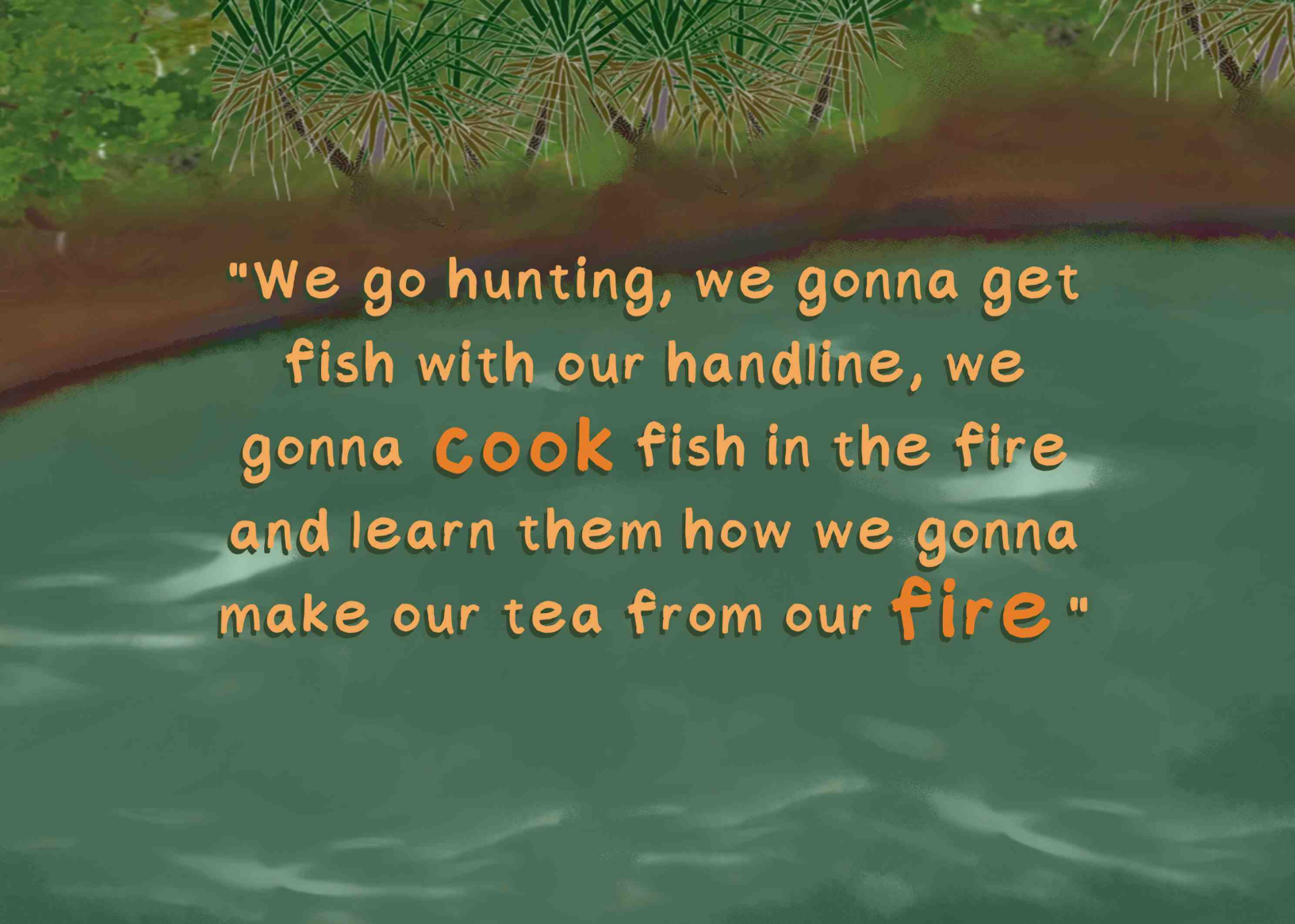
"Always someone goes to him and giving him love."

"He just cry for her, he loves his Aunty."


"He likes to go hunting with
his father, so he can grow
up just like his father."


know country,
know bush life



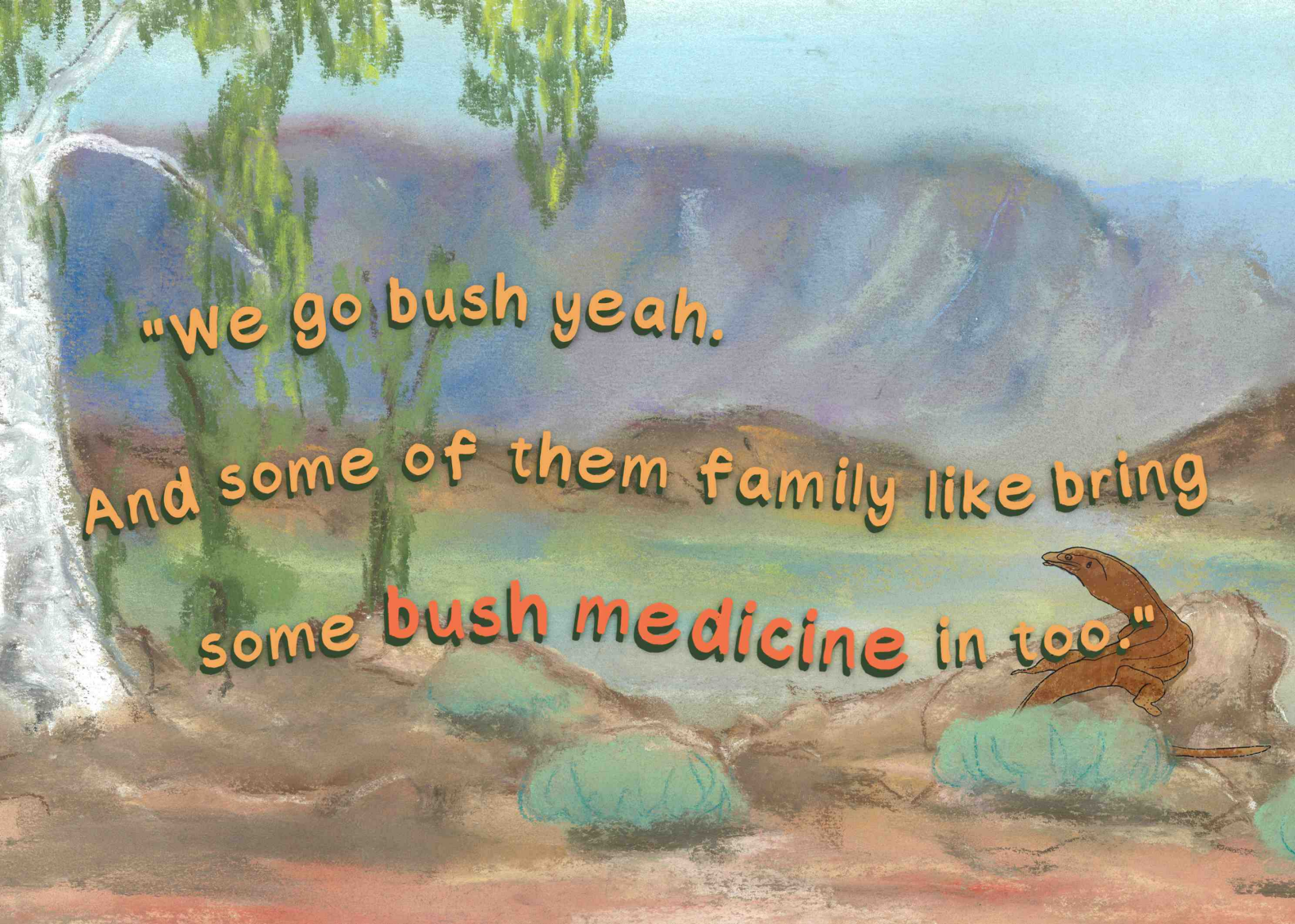

"We go hunting, we gonna get
fish with our handline, we
gonna cook fish in the fire
and learn them how we gonna
make our tea from our fire"

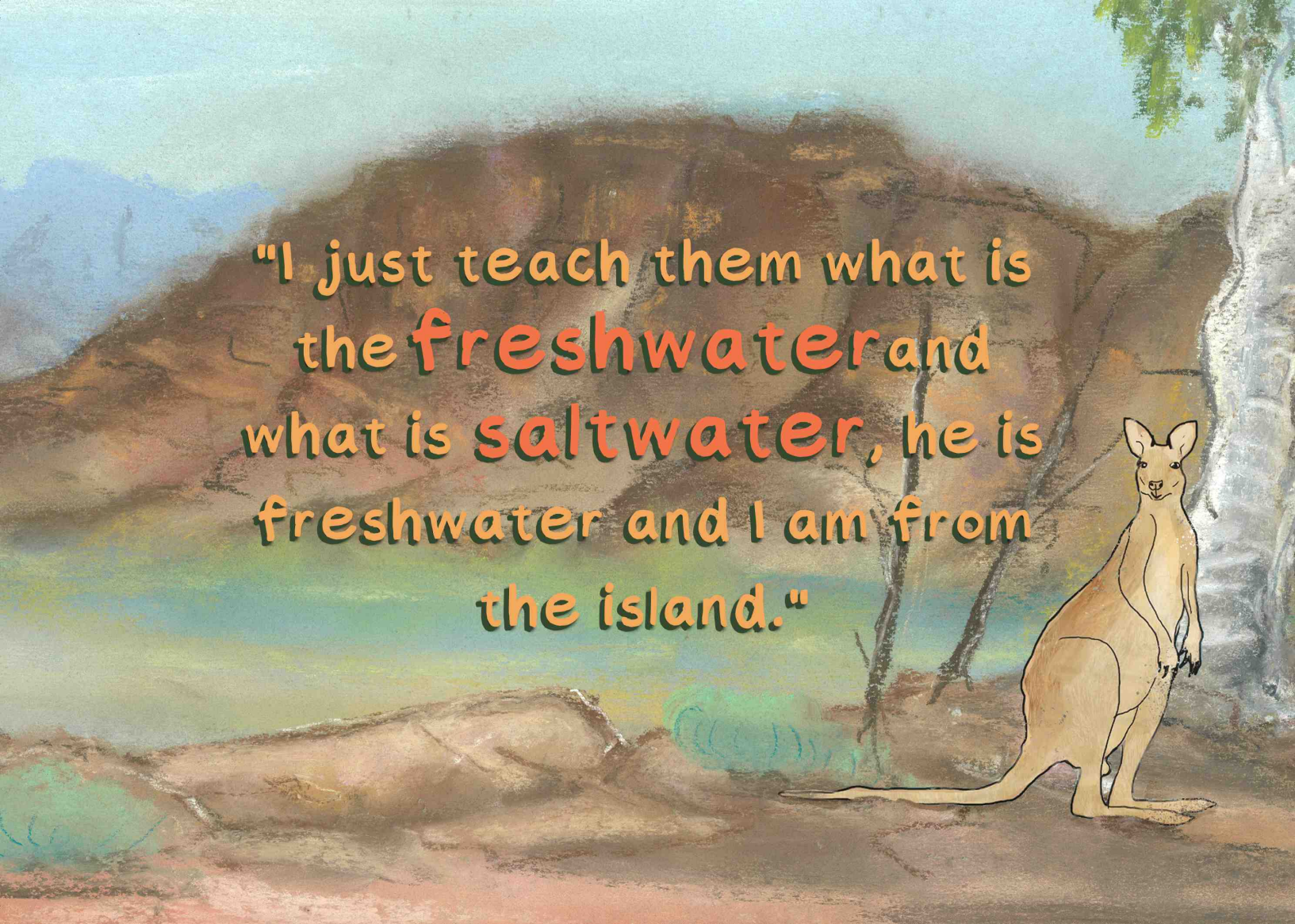




"He belongs to that land."

"Teaching him about family, singing and dancing, because it's our culture"


"We go bush yeah.
And some of them family like bring
some bush medicine in too."


"I just teach them what is the freshwater and what is saltwater, he is freshwater and I am from the island."


play together,
spend time
together

"I just want them to love me and have fun at the same time."

"I smile back at her. And I talk to her and I tell her funny stories. Or I read her a book."




"I just make funny faces, show him things."


"He's always playing with me and making fun for me, trying to keep me busy."


B
C
A
B



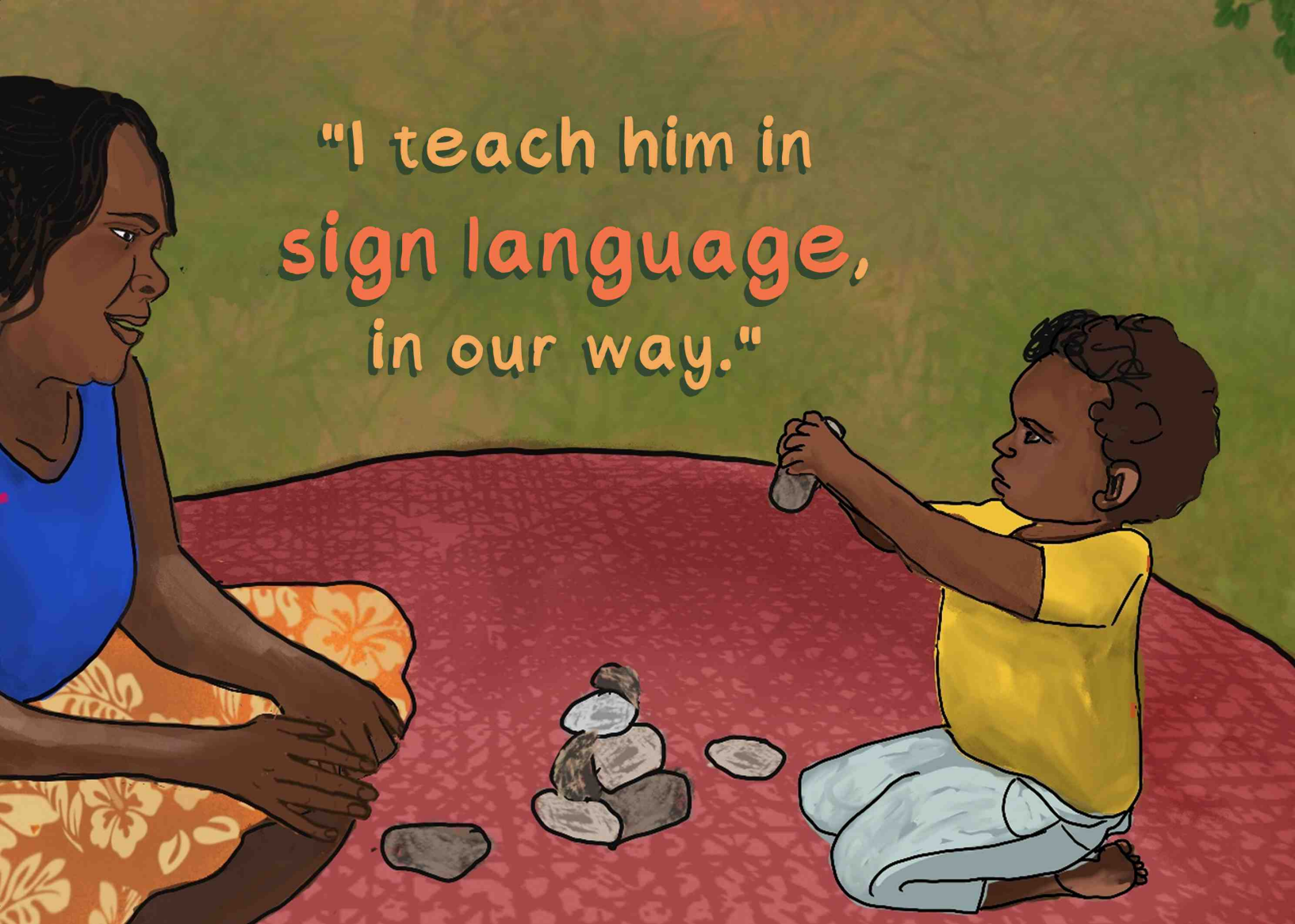
"Yeah he loves cubbyhouse, sometimes we'll play superhero, playing with them often."

“I just usually keep him close. I could cuddle him all I want.”






teaching
language


"I teach him in
sign language,
in our way."



"She laughs and talks back to me. She talks to me. I don't understand what she says, but I know what she says. I can see her."





"I always be there for them."

"Being with them, making them happy, making that bond with baby."


"Her heart and
my heart."
"Uniting with
family."




You can put a photo of your baby or
family here

You can put a photo of your baby or family here

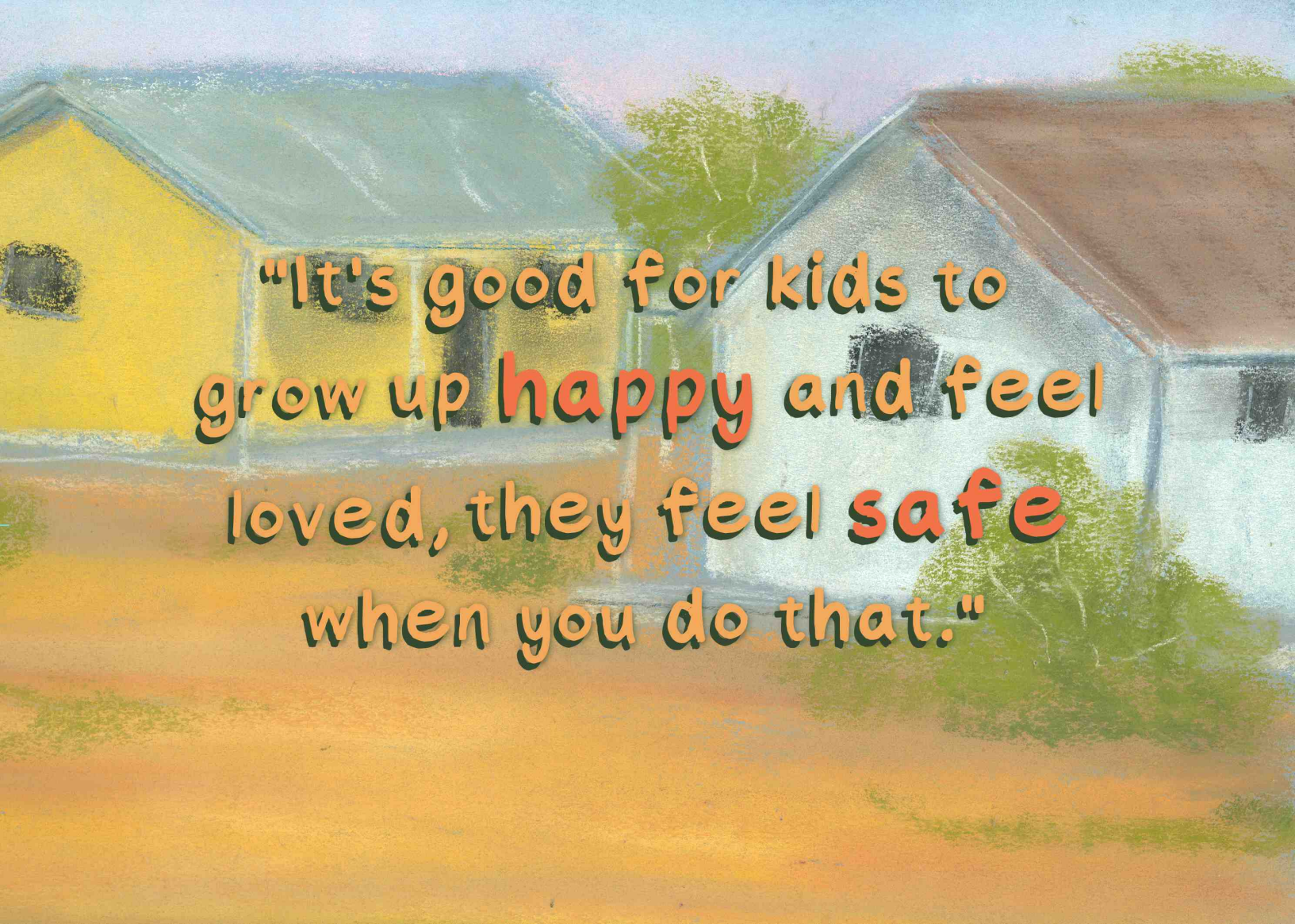
Notes about this book

Babies and young children need love and attention every day. They need their parents and families to be there for them, to laugh and play, and keep them safe.

From birth until five years old is a time of very fast growth and development. During this time babies and young children are learning about the world around them. Strong nurturing relationships with parents and family builds the ground for how children feel about themselves, how they form relationships with others, and how they cope with strong feelings.

Ideas for using this book:

- Use the pictures in this book to tell a story to your child.
- Read the quotes in this book from other parents. Are any of these things important to you and your family?
- Use the ideas in this book to talk with health and family support services. What would you like to do to make your children feel loved and secure in your family?
- Add in your own pictures and words about your children and family. How do you help your children to feel happy and loved?


"It's good for kids to
grow up happy and feel
loved, they feel safe
when you do that."



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