

Lou op weg naar school
Lou on his way to school

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Back cover text

Lou has butterflies in his stomach. Today, he is going on a school trip for the very first time! Lou kisses Papa and his baby sister goodbye and puts his rucksack on his back. ‘Ready, Lou?’ Daddy asks. Every morning, Daddy walks Lou to school. On the way, they meet all kinds of people and situations. The mail carrier on her bicycle, the fire fighters, the doctor and her little dog ... The road to school is always full of adventure!

Everybody is different. The same is true in this simple and familiar story about the daily surroundings of a young child. This book shows the beauty and diversity of our society. For children ages 4 and up.

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Diversity? That’s normal!

This new book series is created together with çavaria, a Belgian umbrella organization of more than 120 associations that strive for a broad outlook on sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity. Diversity is not the theme of this series but it’s presented as a normal and natural fact. After all, everybody *is* different!

Story

1

Lou has butterflies in his stomach. Today, he is going on a school trip by bus for the very first time. “Ready, Lou?” Daddy asks. Lou kisses Papa and his baby sister goodbye and puts his rucksack on his back. “See you later, Papa! See you later, little sis,” he waves.

2

Daddy and Lou are walking on the sidewalk, just as all the other pedestrians. Lou gives Daddy his hand, because it can be dangerous on the street. They have to watch out for the traffic; cars and bicycles are passing everywhere.

3

Lou is walking on the side of the houses, so Dad has a better view of what is happening on the road. There is the bakery!

“Hello, baker,” Lou waves cheerfully.

“Be careful now,” Daddy says. “Here we will cross the road. But first we have to look carefully if a car or bicycle is coming.”

4

“Look!” Lou points. “The doctor and her dog. That dog is doing a poo on the road. That is disgusting!”

Daddy laughs. “No, it isn’t! The doctor will take the poo home in a small plastic bag. She will throw it away in the garbage can at home.”

5

The traffic light for pedestrians is red. “May we cross the road now?” Dad asks Lou.

“No.” Lou shakes his head. “When it is red, you have to wait. Look, Daddy, a garbage truck!”

6

“The light is green now,” Lou calls. “Now we can cross the road.”

The mail carrier crosses the road too with her bicycle.

“What a huge bag full of letters,” says Lou. “The mail carrier still has a lot of work.”

7

“Do you see the fire engine, Lou?” asks Dad.

There is a cat in the tree. She can’t get out.

The fire man holds the ladder while the fire woman takes the cat carefully out of the tree. Lou wants to join the fire brigade later, when he’s all grown up.

8

“We have to be really careful here,” Dad says.

“The road workers have made a pit in the pavement. We have to cross the road one more time. But first we look carefully to the left and to the right to see if there is a car or bicycle coming.”

9

“Anissa, Anissa!” Lou waves.

He tries to let go of Dad’s hand.

But Dad is angry. “Lou,” he says sternly. “What you are doing is dangerous. Never try and cross the road without looking left and right.”

10

Lou and his dad are almost at school.

In front of the school there is a crosswalk.

That’s where they have to cross the road.

Two police officers make the cars stop, so everybody can cross the road safely.

11

Miss Sara and Mister Pablo are waiting for the children at the school ground. It is very busy today, because the young children are going on a school trip. The parents stay a while longer. They want to wave goodbye to the children. The bus is already there. It is big and red.

12

Lou gets on the bus with his friends and the teachers. The driver will take them to the farm.

“Bye bye!” the children wave.

“Have a nice day!” the others wave back.

13

At the farm, Lou is watching how woman farmer Eva feeds the pigs.

Yuck, that smells bad! He can go for a ride with the tractor with woman farmer Yasmine later. Victor and Fleur are having a bit of a row, but soon they are friends again. Going on a school trip together is so much fun!

14

Play together with Lou

Look and find

Lou is together with his daddy, his papa and little sister Tess in the kindergarten.

But they are not alone. On these pictures you can see even more mummies and daddies and children. Can you find them in the playground?

15

Does this family resemble yours?

What is different? What is the same?

Can you see where this family lives?

How do you feel today?

Can you find the five differences?

16

Diversity is normal

That is the bottom line of this book. Everyone is different. We may differ in sex, color of skin, sexual orientation, religion, age and innumerable other things. You find this diversity throughout this book. It's not about who is different. Because ... who is that other person? That differs for everyone, since it depends on the frame of reference we create on the basis of education, experiences, individuality

As a result, you will also find stereotypes of persons and situations in this book. There is nothing wrong with stereotypes, as long as they are part of a broader view on reality. There are a lot of caring mothers in this world. But there are also a lot of caring fathers. And that's where it goes wrong in a lot of other books; we only get to see those stereotypes. And when the theme of the book is 'diversity', we often see the opposite: only those who differ from 'the standard' are shown. Lou tries to offer us the obvious mix: society as it is in reality.