



# Convalescence and Caring

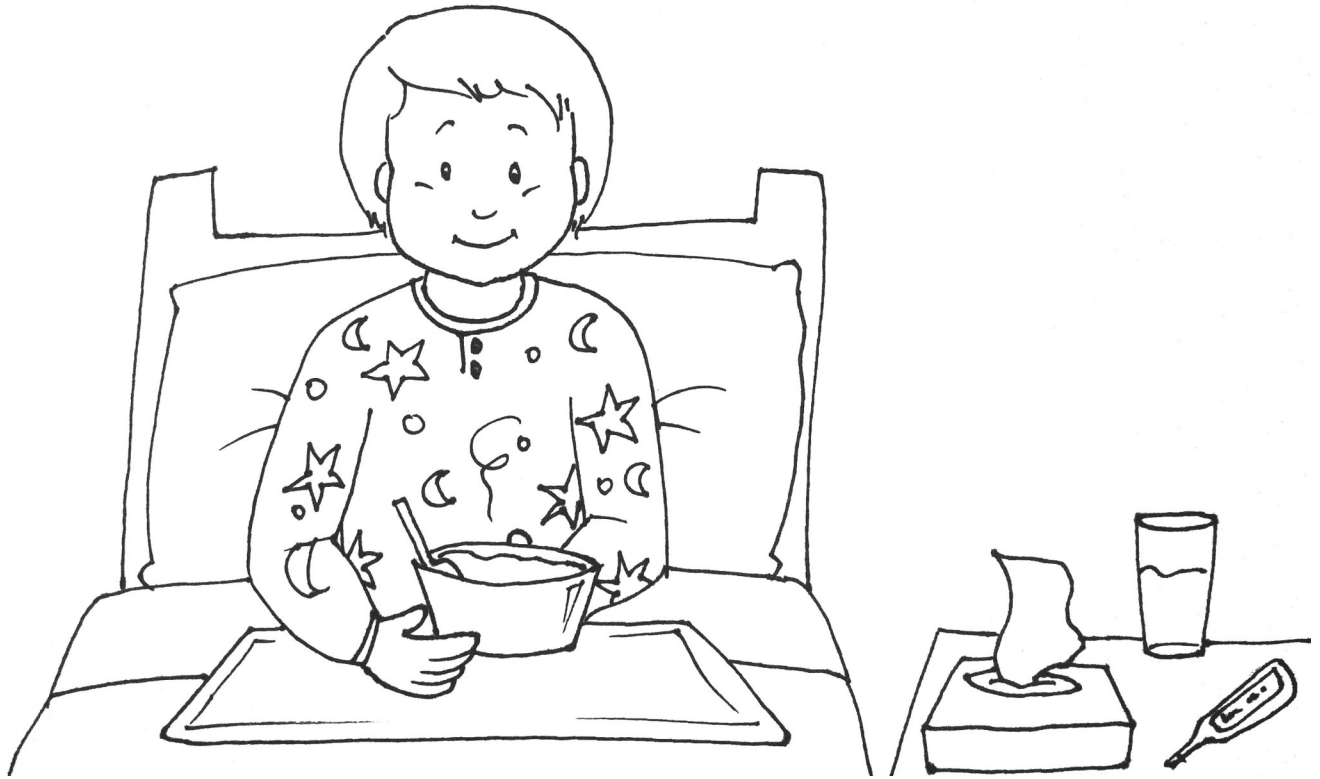
**NED—08**



# Convalescence and Caring

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*Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!*



*Cough, cough! Sputter! Snort! Ahhchoo!*

“Mother, I don’t like being sick!” Tony said.

Mother was helping Tony put on something dry and warm, after he’d spilt his soup on himself, while eating in bed.

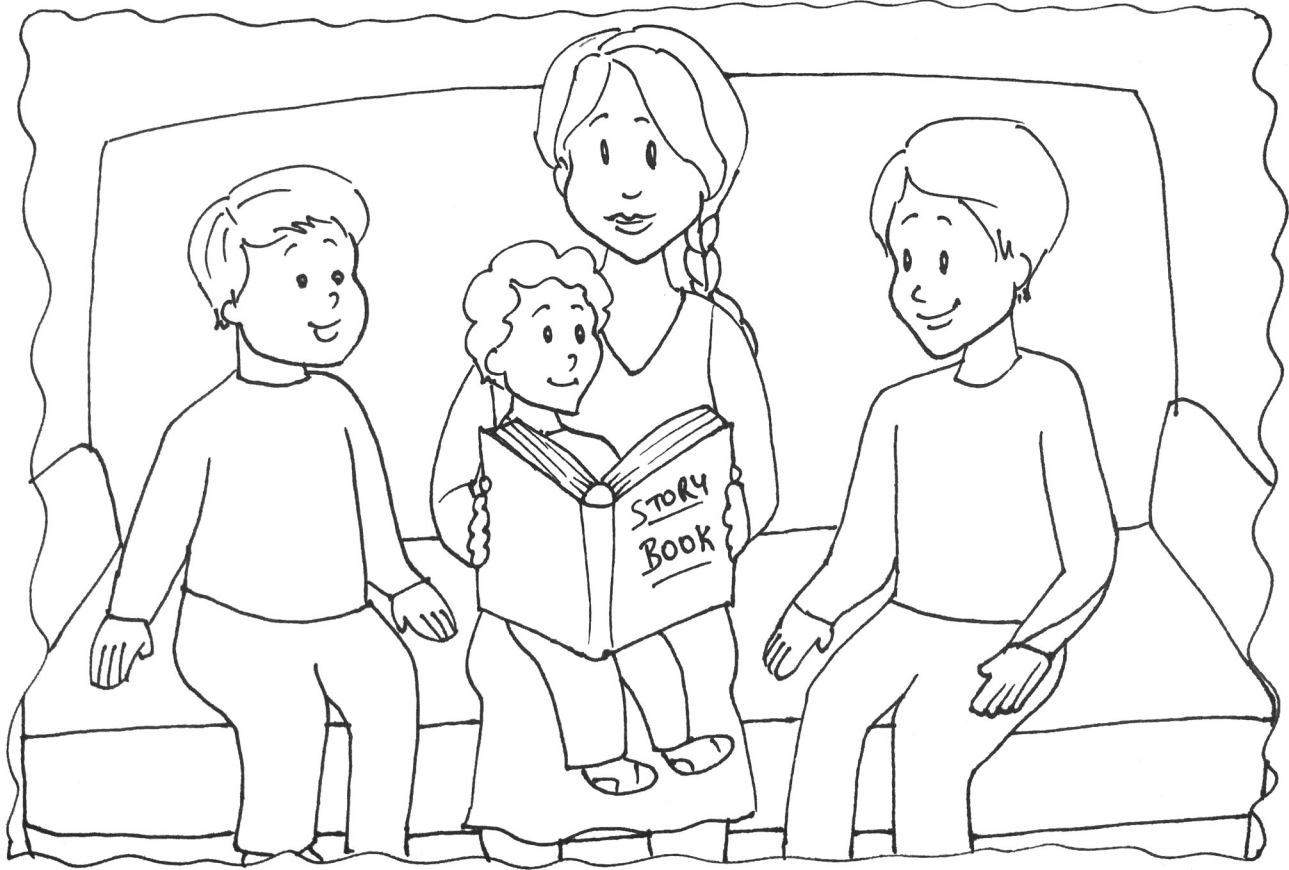
All three brothers were sick and in bed.



Teddy was at last asleep for awhile, but wasn't resting so well, as he felt uncomfortable with a stuffy nose.

“It's not my favourite time either!” Mother said.

“It is hard to feel unwell, and it can get you down too, if you let it! But we don't have to let it ruin all our fun. Can you think of anything that we get to do now that we don't always get to do when we are in good health?”





“Oh, I know one!” Tony exclaimed, “We get to read more stories than we usually do, because when we feel well often we are too energetic to slow down and read for too long. And it’s fun now!”

Tony liked all the new and not-so-new-but-still-fun stories that they had been reading together.

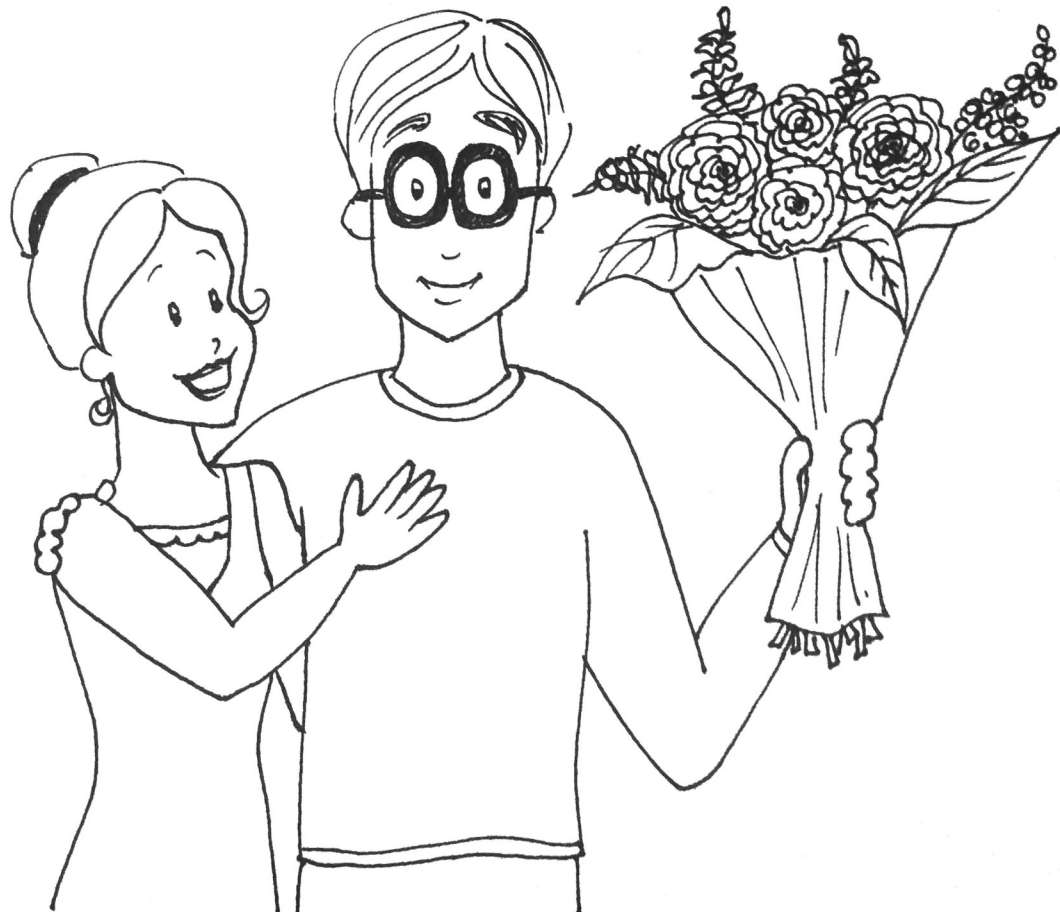
He was the first one to get people thinking happy thoughts again.



“That’s true,” replied Mother, “and we get to talk together about all sorts of things.

“If all we do is play games and toys when you boys are together, sometimes it’s easy to get bothered when someone is messing things up a bit.

“But now that we need to take it easy we can learn more about each other, talk to one another and show our love and appreciation for each other.”

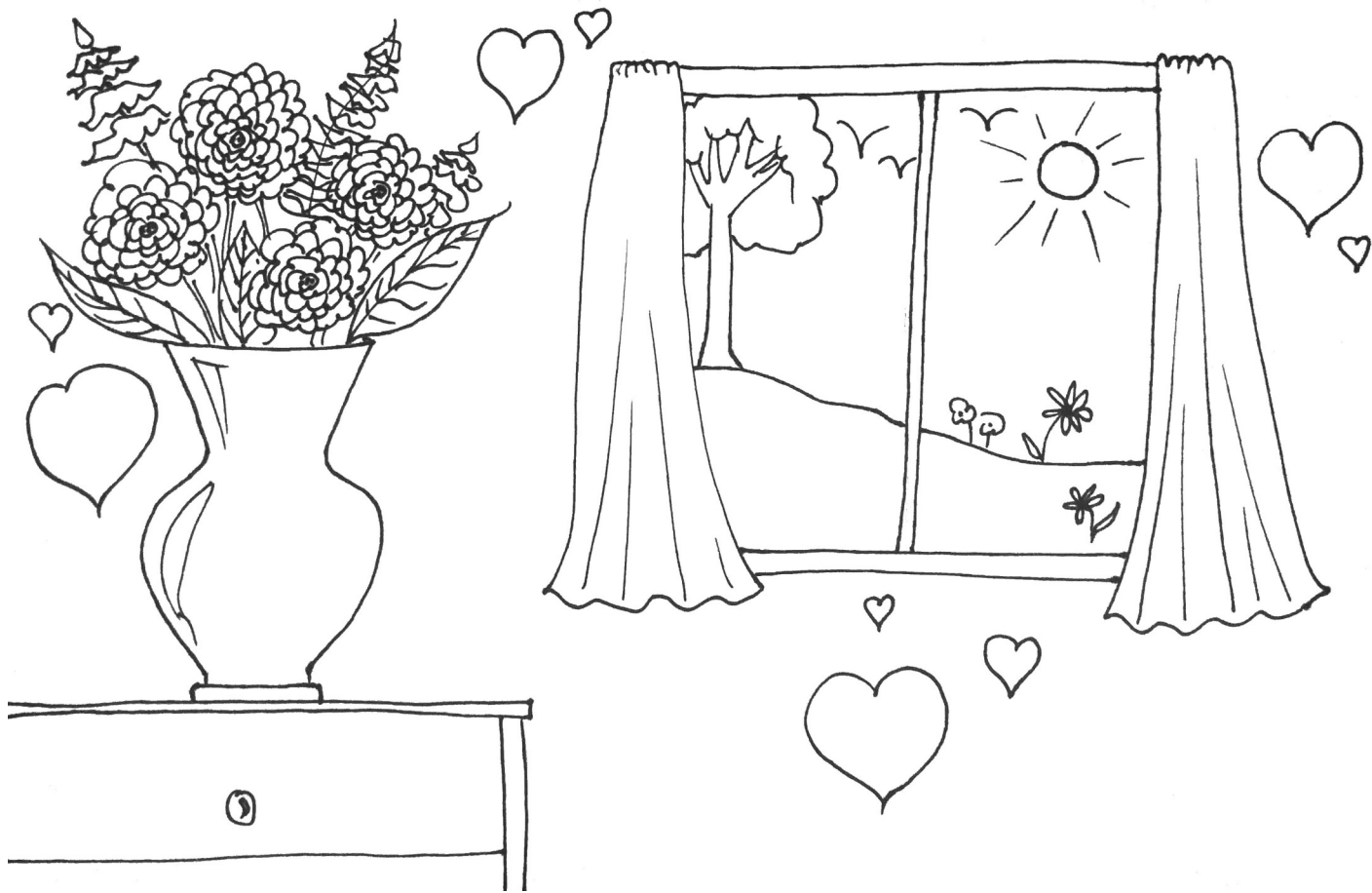


Mother continued,

“It might even help you to have more pleasant times with each other later on when you feel well, as you’ll just be so glad you can run and play again. You won’t be focusing on the little bothersome things as much, but will be happy you are healthy!”

Just then the door opened with a surprise! It was Daddy holding a bouquet of flowers.

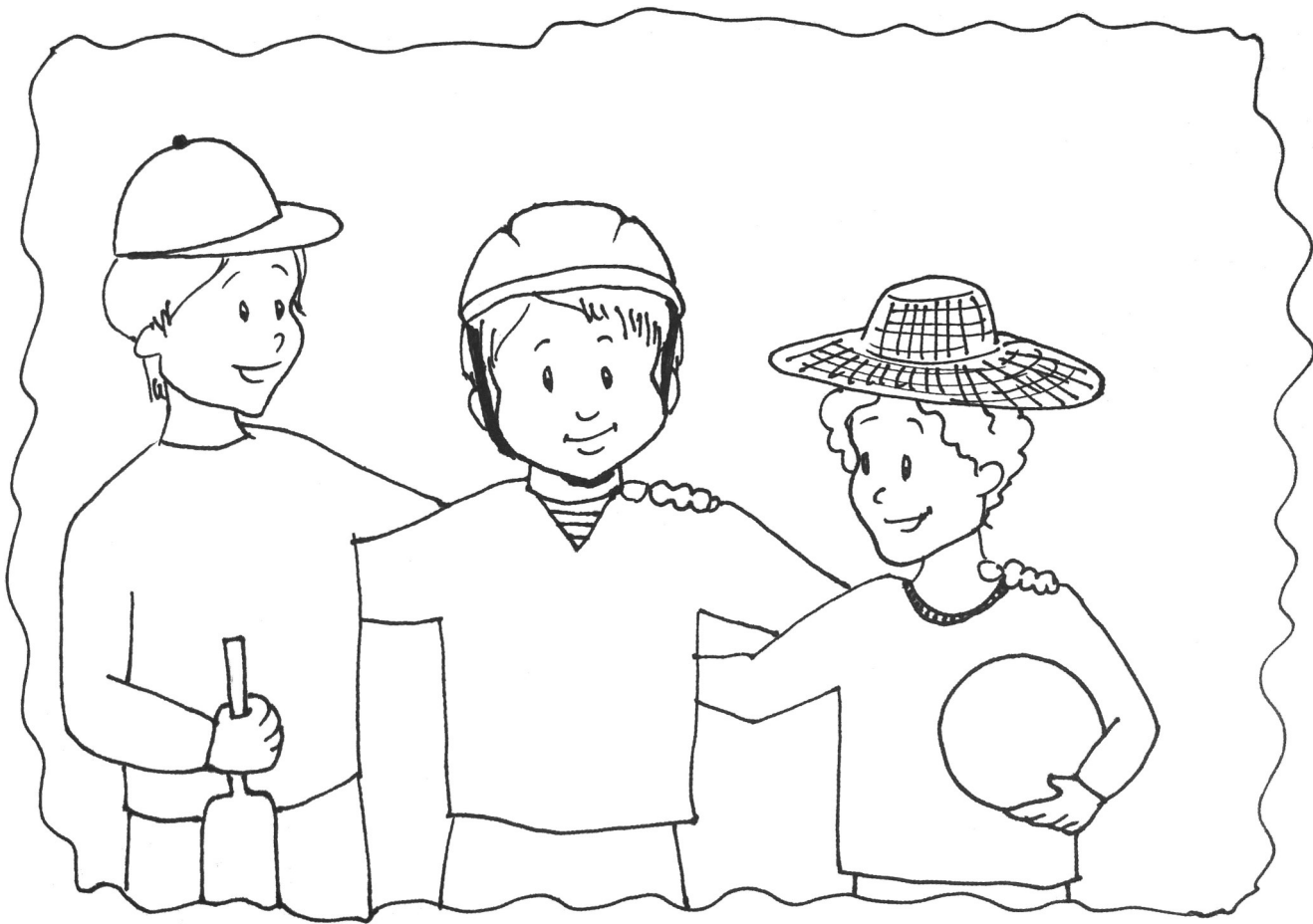
“Thank you for taking care of the children,” Daddy said, as he gave his wife a hug.



Daddy said, “I thought to bring in a bit of the garden to you all, since you can’t enjoy it like you wanted to today!”

Everyone smiled at Daddy’s loving care and thoughtfulness. Mother put the flowers in a vase where they could all see them. It helped to brighten up the room.

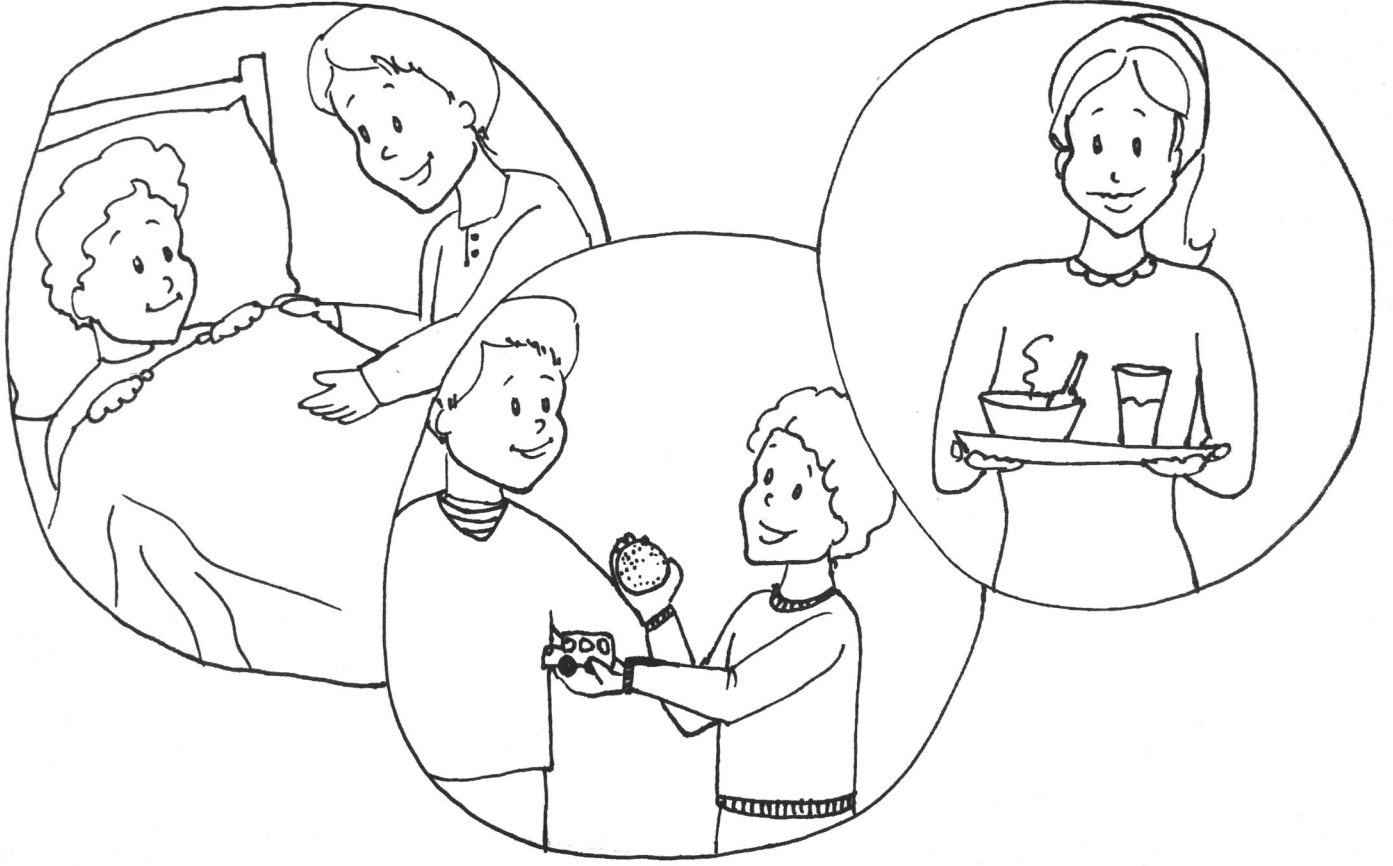
The flowers made the children feel happy. Every time they looked at the pretty bouquet it reminded them that their Daddy and Mother loved and cared about them, and each other.





When everyone was settled again and ready to read a book with Mother, Ned expressed a thought:

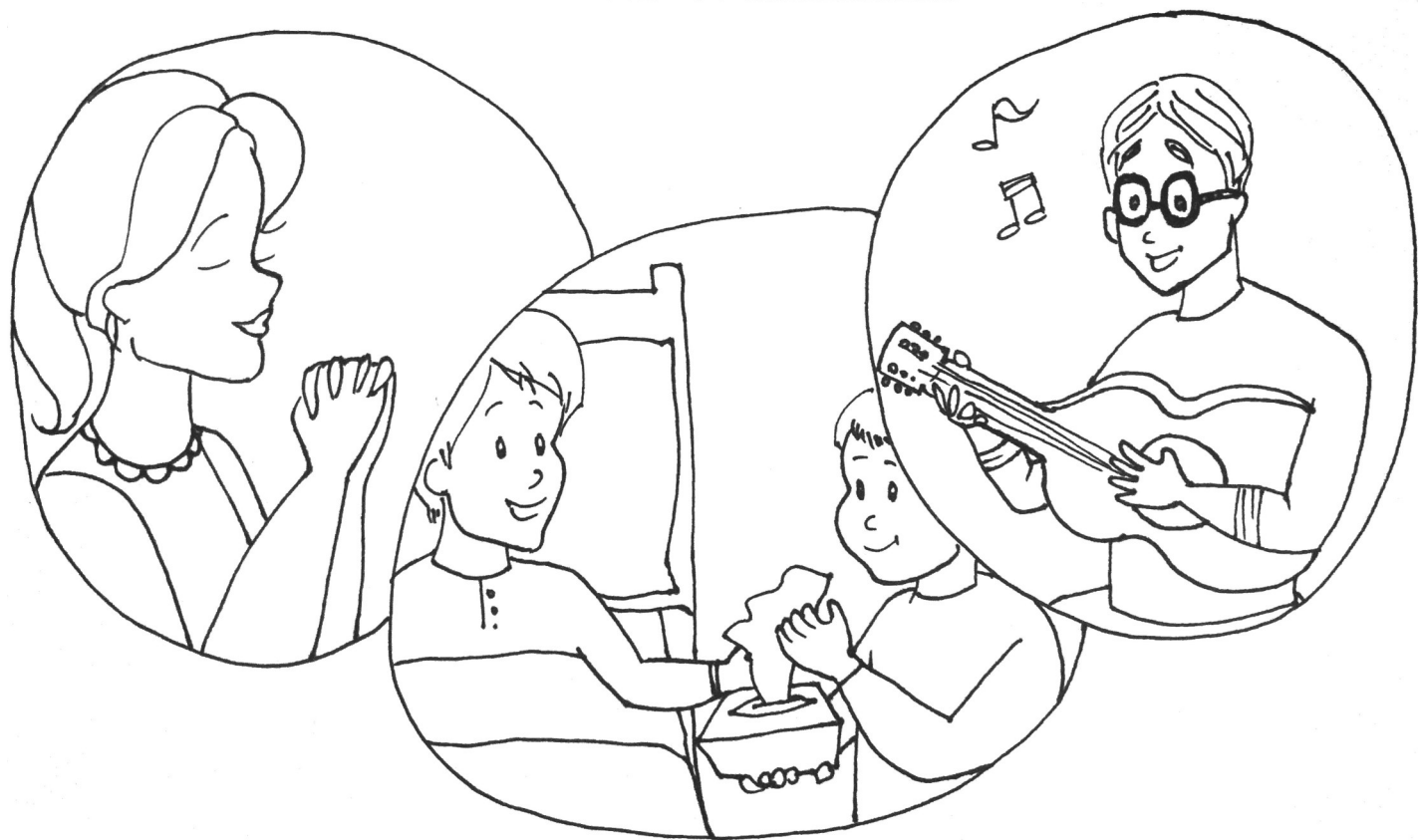
“Maybe that’s really what is the best thing about being sick. It’s not that we get to do so many cool things right now, but because of the way it makes us change, and the way it will make things be even better, later on, when we are well again.”



“Like what sorts of things?” Mother asked.

Ned continued,

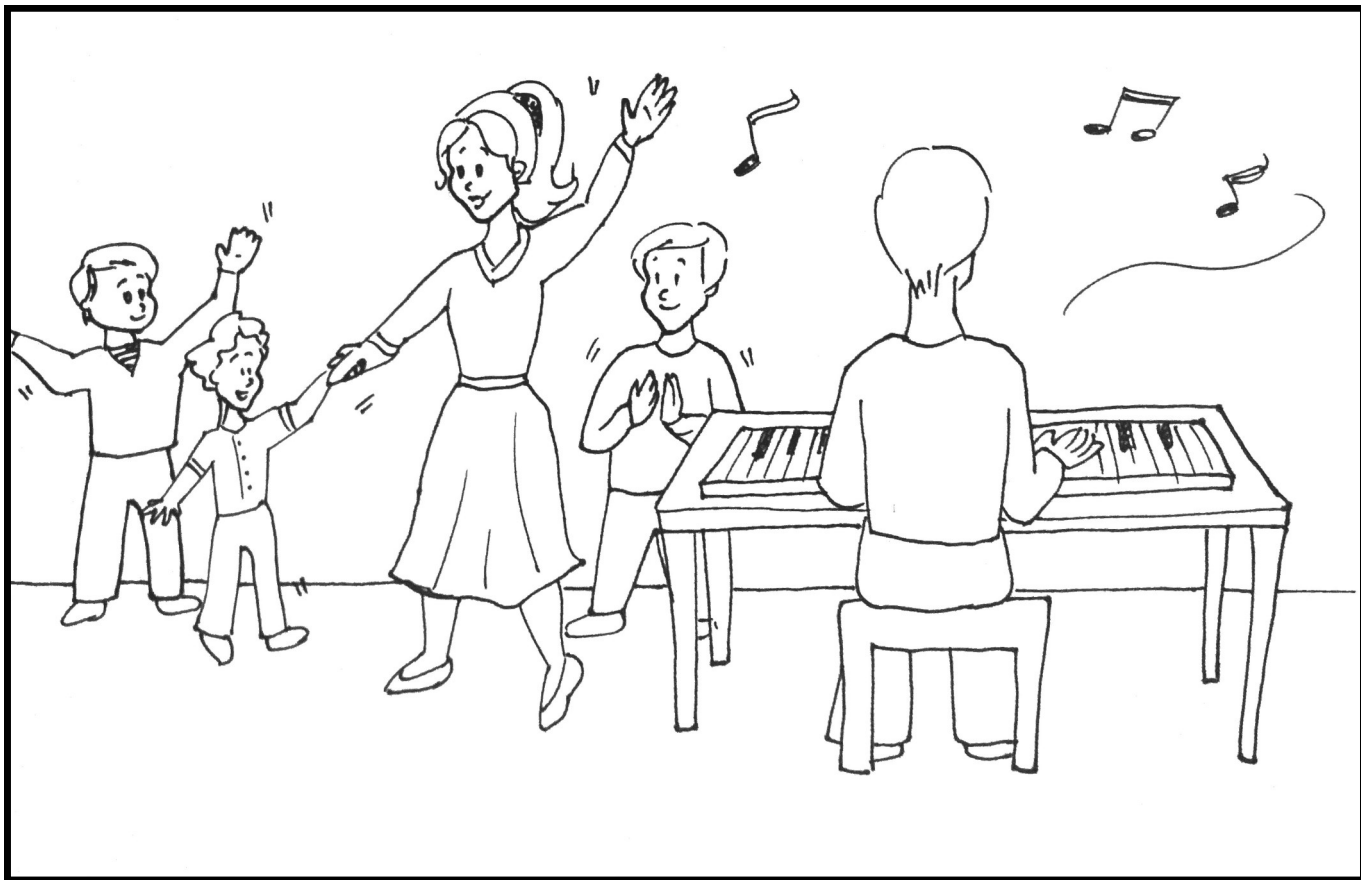
“Just like what you were saying before, and also what Daddy thought of doing. We can start to appreciate each other more, and show more kindness as we help each other get well quickly.”



Tony joined in and expressed,

“Maybe if things are always just fine and we never get sick or hurt, then we get used to things too much, and it makes us forget to show as much love to each other as we should.

“I feel happy that we love each other, and when we are sick it seems to remind us to show it more, and it reminds us that others care about us too, as we have to help care for each other.”



Mother wrapped her arms around both her big boys and gave them a hug. Teddy stirred in his sleep and then woke up to join in on the hug and cosy story time.

Before too long they were on the way to full health and strength, and there seemed to be an extra bit of love and joy in their home, because of that time of learning to care for and appreciate each other.

