

I Really Really
Cannot
Catch
These
Words!



Written by **Emily Lim-Leh**

Illustrated by **Josef Lee**

In collaboration with
Epworth Community Services

This fictional picture book is written allegorically to depict a child with severe learning challenges. In this story, we imagine how this child might struggle with reading. Other children may experience their struggles in different ways.

We hope that this picture book draws attention to some of the difficulties faced by children with literacy issues.

We also wish to raise awareness that early literacy intervention programmes can help these children to level up with their peers in mainstream education, so they don't fall too far behind. Such support also bolsters the children's social and emotional well-being.

This e-book is a voluntary initiative in support of Epworth Community Services' work in literacy intervention needs.

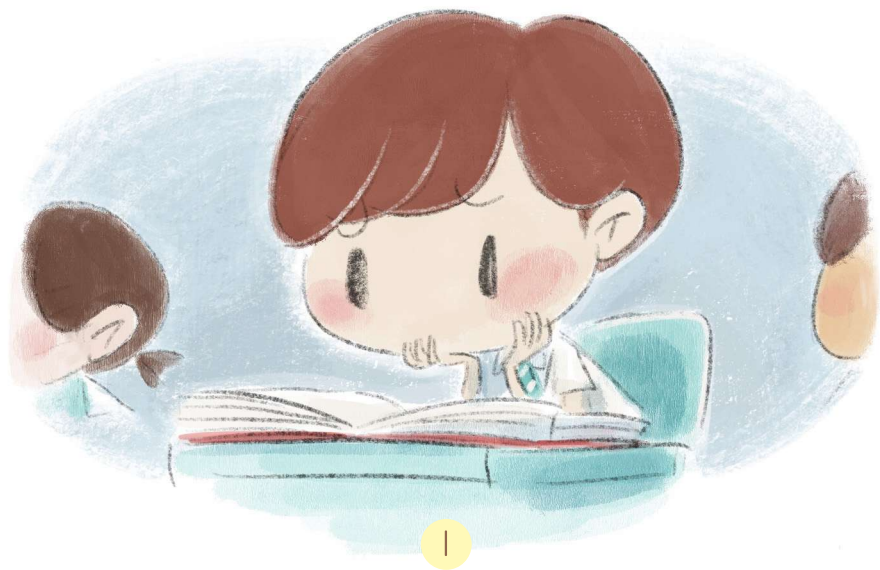
Read more about Epworth Community Services' work with disadvantaged children and youth at

<https://www.epworth.sg>

The book is based on information as of 2nd October 2022.



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Class is dismissed. See you all tomorrow!

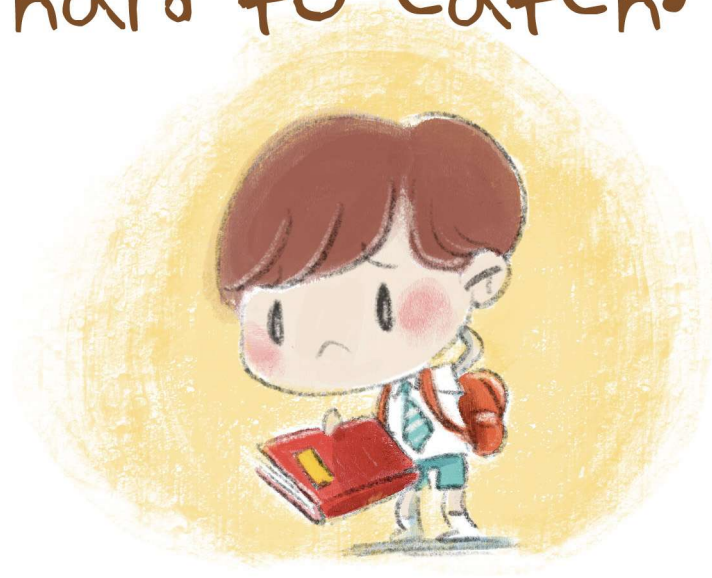


Riiinnng!!!





Ming has a
problem with words –
he finds them
hard to catch.



I really, really
cannot catch
these words!

Rusty used to be a
favourite with the
children. They

would line up for
a chance to ride
on him.



He would rock
back and forth,
much to their
delight. But that
was a long



time ago.

LOOK!
Some of the letters
turn upside down.
Others spin round
and round.

upside
down

upside
down

spin
spin

spin

upside
down



see!
Letters disappear,
like some
magic trick.

! ?)

Strnge mgic
trck keps
mkng lttrs
disppar



Help!
I cannot understand
these
alien
words.

The
paked a
knip
cakə
frow
zəratʃ

but the
pirp
knockəp
it over
into
the laip.

Can you? ~



The sneaky snake slithers into the slit.

Why can't I catch

The flustered bird flits,



flutters and flies off.

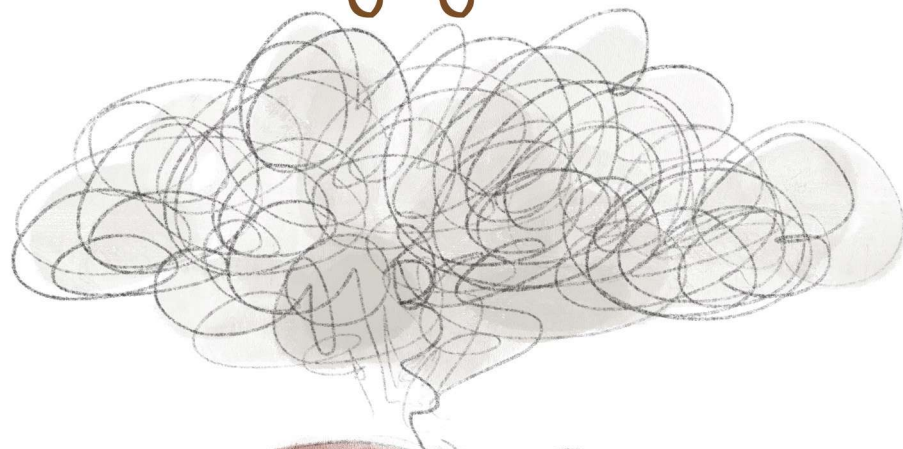


any of these words?



The bouncy kangaroo skips and hops away.

Ming gets



really, really mad.

Ming becomes



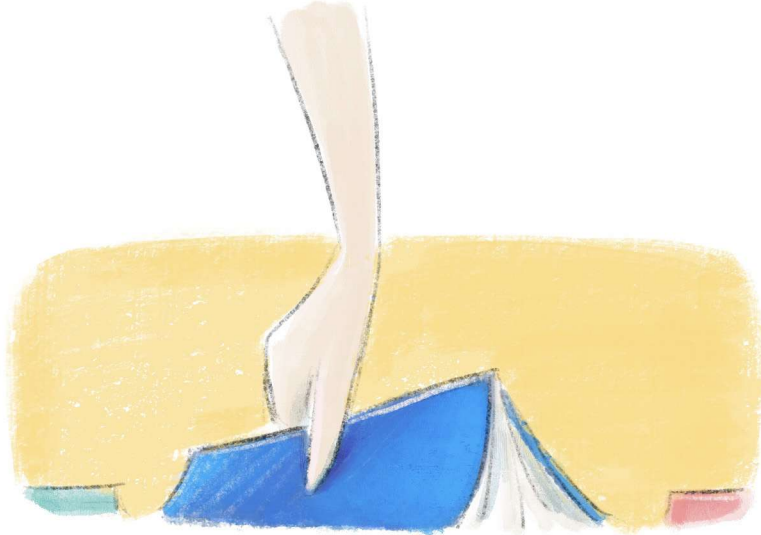
very, very sad.

S.O.B!
I give up!





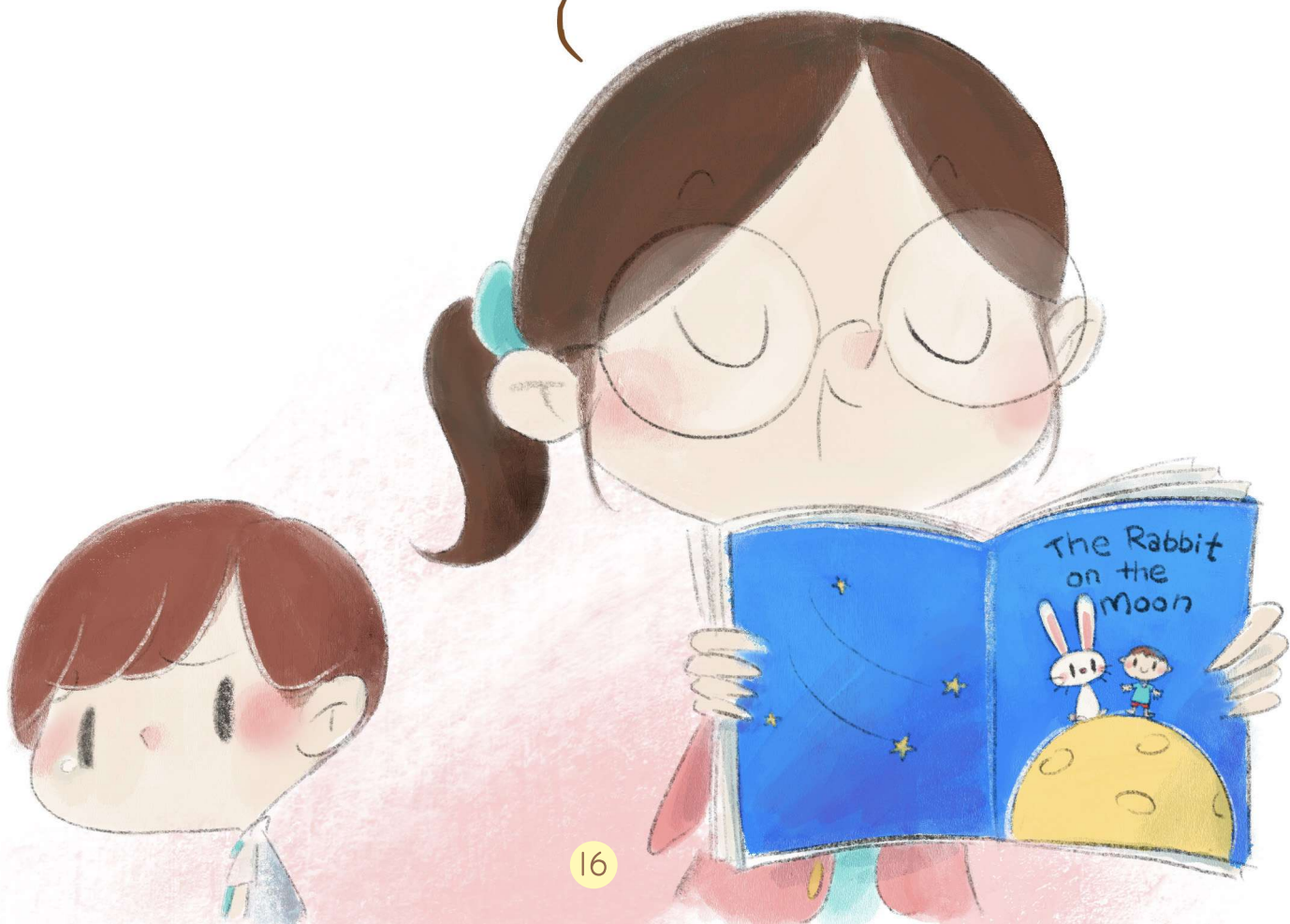




“You can do it,”
MOON Rabbit
told the boy.



“Can I really catch
those shooting stars?”
the boy asked.



“Yes,”
Moon Rabbit
said.



“When you believe, miracles happen.”



Shall we try?



Believe

You can do it

Try

Help

Faith





Try again!
I'll show you how to do it.



Allied Educator

Literacy Intervention Teacher

I have 'HELP'!



Educational Psychologist



Reading Programme Volunteer



Yes, you have help!



Support

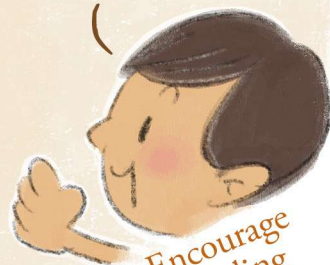
Assess

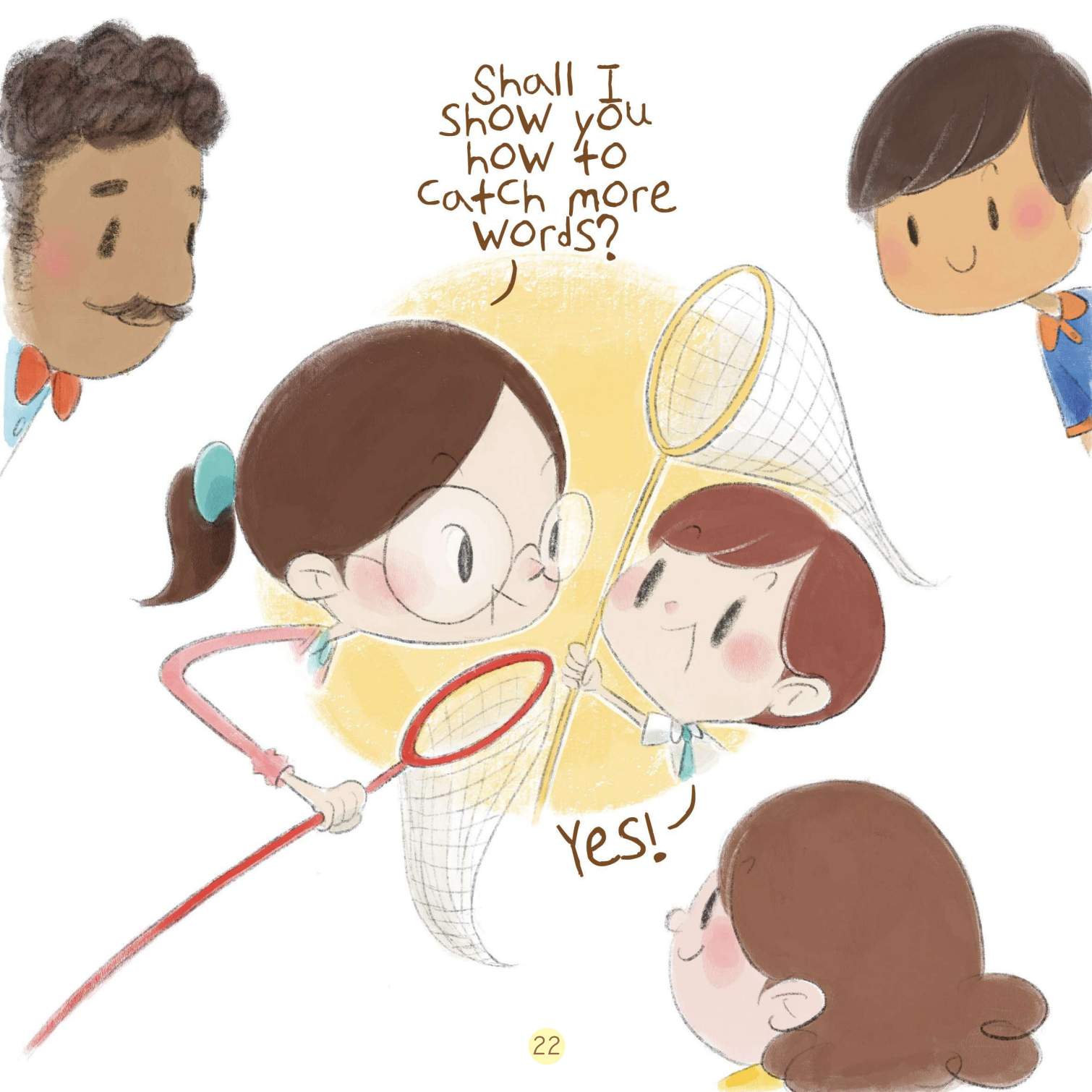


Equip



Encourage Reading



A colorful illustration featuring several children and a man. In the center, a girl with brown hair in a ponytail and glasses holds a red-handled net. To her right, a boy with brown hair holds a white net. Below them, another girl with brown hair is seen from the back, saying "Yes!". In the top left, a man with a mustache and curly hair looks on. In the top right, another boy with dark hair smiles. A large yellow sun is in the background.

Shall I
show you
how to
catch more
words?

Yes!

Exuberant

I can catch
more words now.
Some of them
still escape
me.

Gregarious

Adventurous

But I am
learning
to catch
them more
easily.

Caring
Understanding
Creative

Brave
Hopeful
Loved

With help, I can

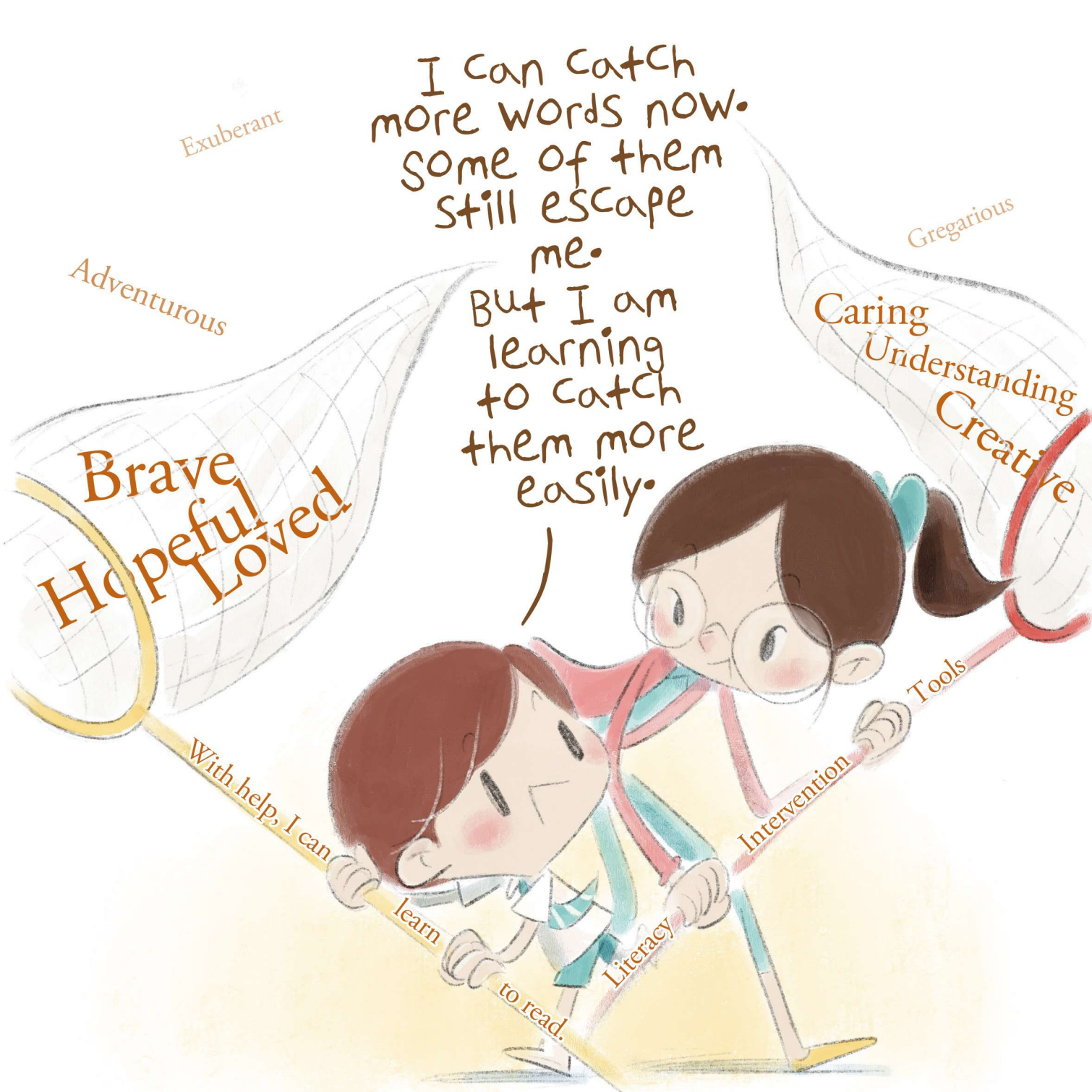
learn

to read.

Literacy

Intervention

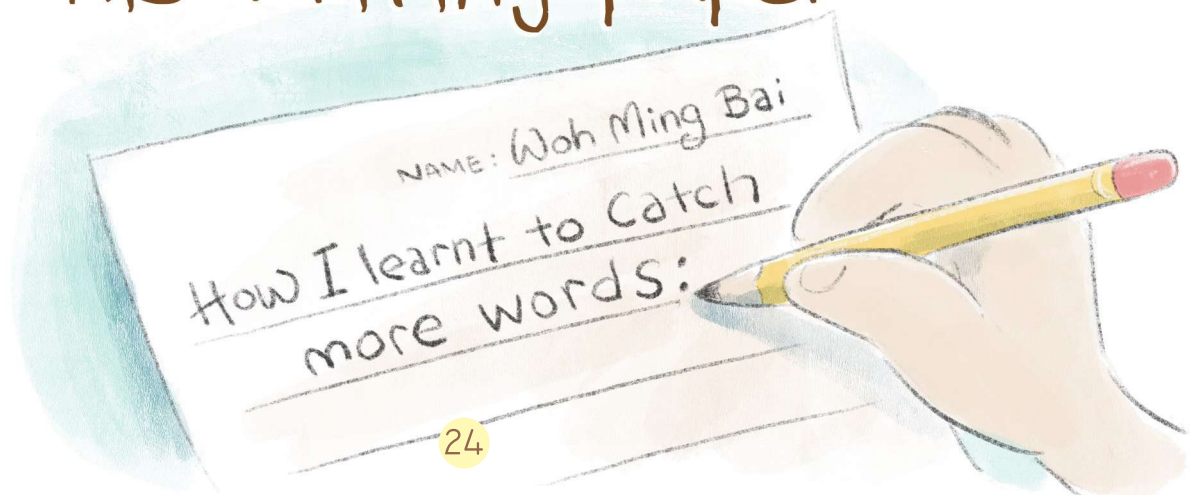
Tools



NOW, Ming also takes the words that he catches



and captures them onto his writing paper.



Who needs literacy intervention?

👉 Students with learning difficulties in mainstream schools will need literacy intervention to help them develop the necessary skills and strategies to cope with their challenges and level up with their peers.

Learning difficulties, such as Language Disorder, Global Developmental Delay or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), that students face affect their reading, writing and how they cope academically. These difficulties may cause a lot of stress and anxiety, and have a significant impact on their self-esteem.

Why is early literacy intervention important?

👉 Early literacy intervention is key as it addresses learning gaps on a timely basis and helps the child to cope academically.

👉 Early literacy intervention also helps to improve these children's self-esteem and confidence level, increasing meaningful interaction between them and their family members and peers, and improving their pro-social skills and problem-solving skills.

What does Epworth Literacy do?

Equipping children in-need to 'learn to read' so that they are empowered to 'read to learn'.

Epworth Literacy provides an aggregate of specialist intervention programmes and services to help children (5 to 12 years old) with learning challenges and impairments to cope with formal education. Furthermore, we provide intervention sessions to equip our students with social, emotional and behavioural skills to empower them to be lifelong learners.

Epworth Community Services has helped over 750 children under its Epworth Literacy Intervention Programme to date.

Most of the children in our programme are referred by hospitals and schools located near our Literacy Centres in Bukit Batok and Jurong West.

"Felix couldn't read in kindergarten and it was a problem for him. His attending doctor at NUH-CDU recommended that he be enrolled at Epworth for literacy intervention prior to entering Primary 1. We understood that he needed time and are thankful that the teachers at Epworth were patient with him. Now at the end of Primary 2, Felix can independently read a book."

Mdm Molly Chong, parent of Felix

"I still remember those days when Carys could not even read. However, under the patient guidance of Epworth teacher Jovian, I could see the tremendous improvement in her language skills. Today, she is in the top three for her English class!"

Parent of Carys

"I was taught at Epworth's literacy centre for 5 years. The lessons are fun and the teachers are kind, helpful and understanding. Now I have graduated from Epworth Literacy and I am very happy because, from not knowing how to read and write, I am now able to do both."

Athilah

How can I support?

Many of these children come from lower income families. As a non-profit charitable organisation, our programmes are subsidised and at much lowered charges. However, many families still need assistance with the fees in this challenging economic climate.

As a guide:

8 literacy intervention classes (1 month) cost **\$321**

24 literacy intervention classes (3 months) cost **\$963**

80 literacy intervention classes (10 months) cost **\$3,210**

Any amount that you can contribute will help these children and their families in literacy educational support.

Here's how you can donate:

(Please note that donations of \$50 and above qualify for 2.5 times tax exemption.)

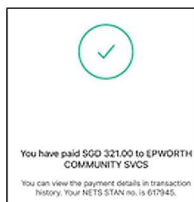
1) To donate online,

scan the QR code using your bank (Scan and Pay) App:



- * If you wish to claim tax exemption (for \$50 donation and above), kindly email us at admin@epworth.sg with:
 - your Full name
 - NRIC/FIN/UEN/ROC/ROB
 - screenshot of your completed fee payment transaction history which includes your NETS STAN number (6 digits)
 - Please include your mailing address if you wish to receive a physical copy of the tax exemption receipt.

Example of screenshot with STAN no.:



2) For donations via cheque,

please make your cheque payable to “Epworth Community Services”.

You may mail your cheque to:

Epworth Community Services

Block 106 Bukit Batok Central #01-217

Singapore 650106

On the reverse side of the cheque, please write:

- “For Epworth Literacy”
- Full name
- Contact details (email address or mobile)
- NRIC/FIN/UEN/ROC/ROB (for 2.5 times tax exemption if you are donating \$50 and above)
- Address and postal code (if you wish to receive a hard copy receipt)

Thank you for your generous giving!

The faces behind the words and illustrations!



Emily Lim-Leh is an award-winning author of over 40 children's books. She lost her voice to Spasmodic Dysphonia, a rare voice disorder, and really, really had problems with words. She recovered it when she was blessed with a new God-given voice in writing. Emily blogs at <https://mummumstheword.wordpress.com/>



Josef Lee tells stories through pictures. His collection of comics and picture-stories about Life, Love & Stuff can be viewed at <https://joseflee.wordpress.com/>

This e-book is produced in collaboration with
Epworth Community Services.

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We wish to acknowledge Epworth Community Services in this collaborative community project.

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