

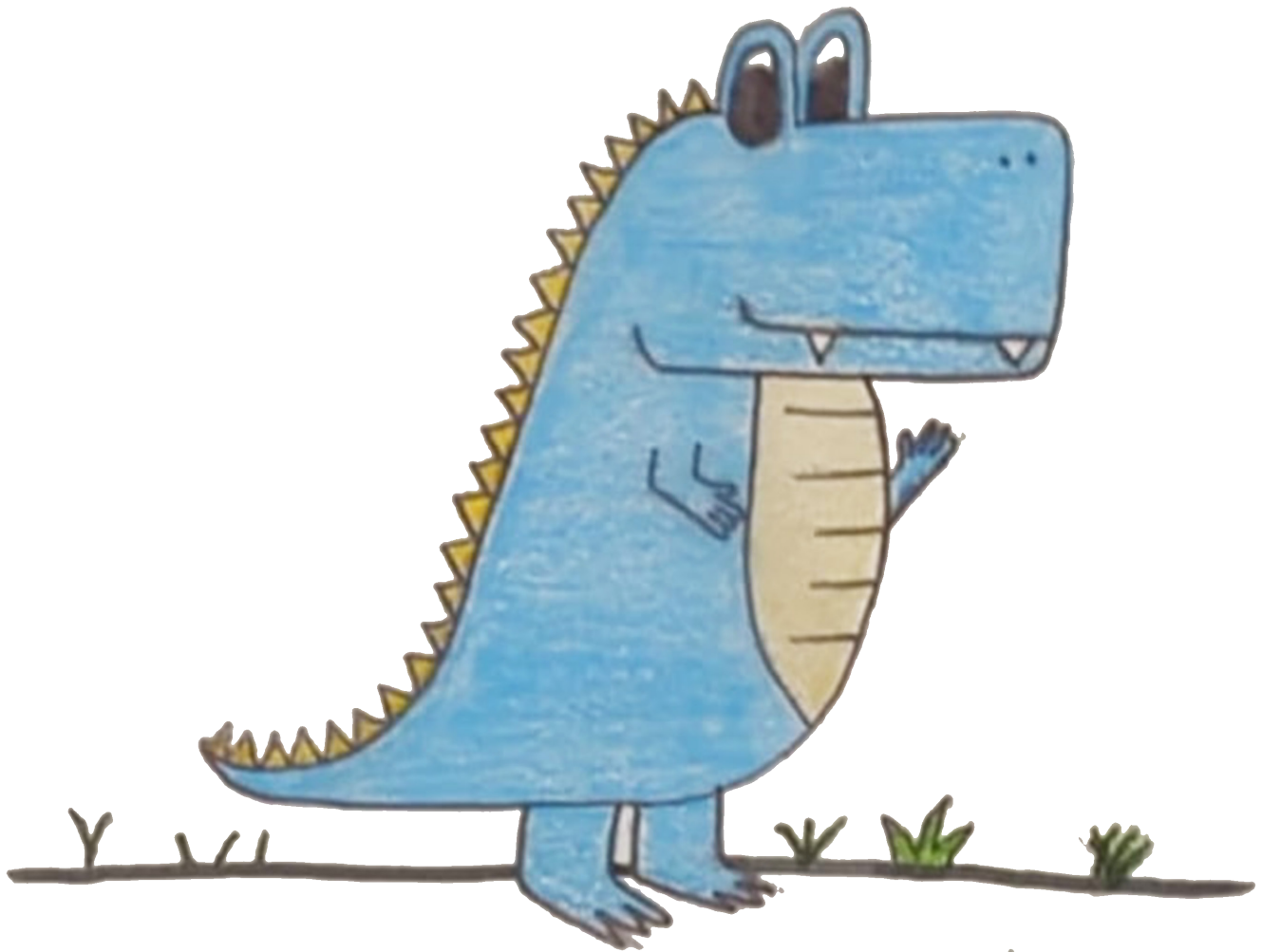
A Dinosaur Dilemma



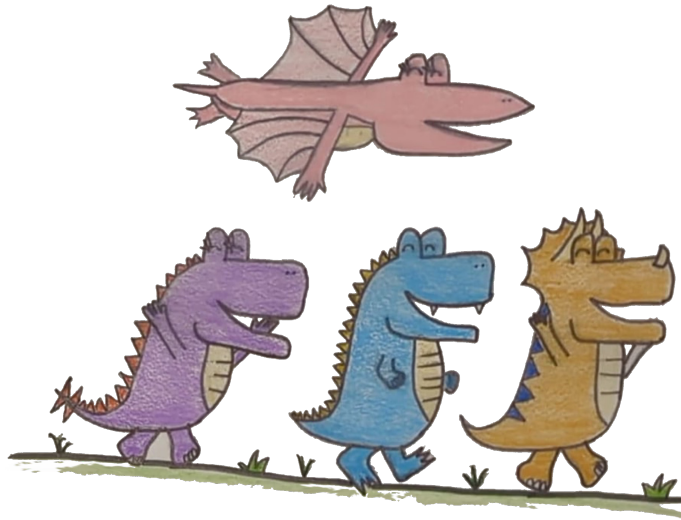
Created and Illustrated by Clay Kessen

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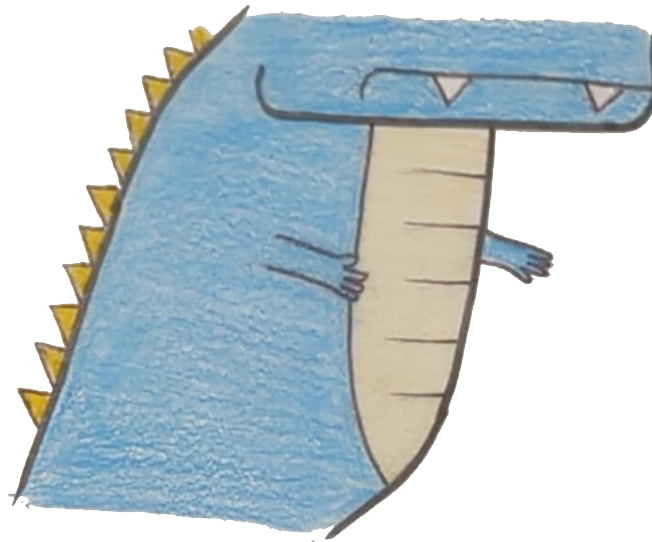
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Tate is an adventurous T-Rex who loves to play.



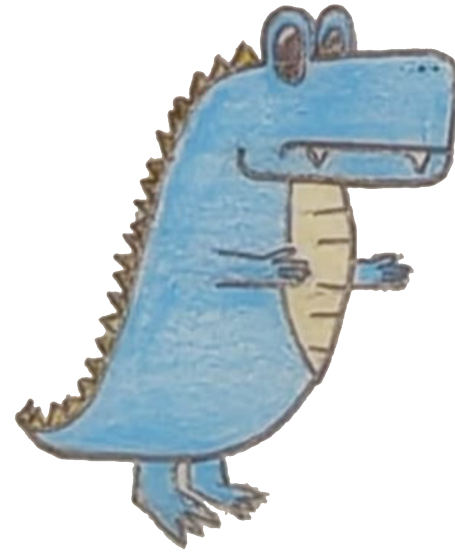
He and his friends hang out together each and every day.



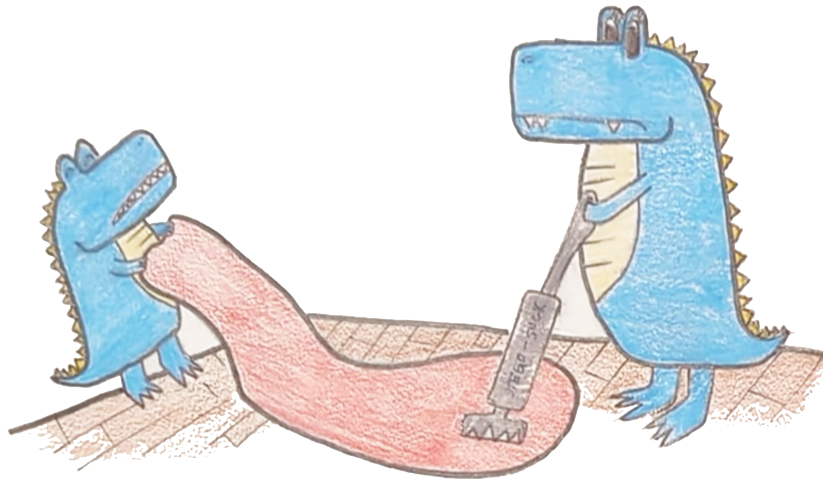
But there's just one problem, as you can see.
Tate's arms, well, they're as short as can be.

He tries to be brave, his arms make it tough.
But unfortunately, having short arms is quite rough.

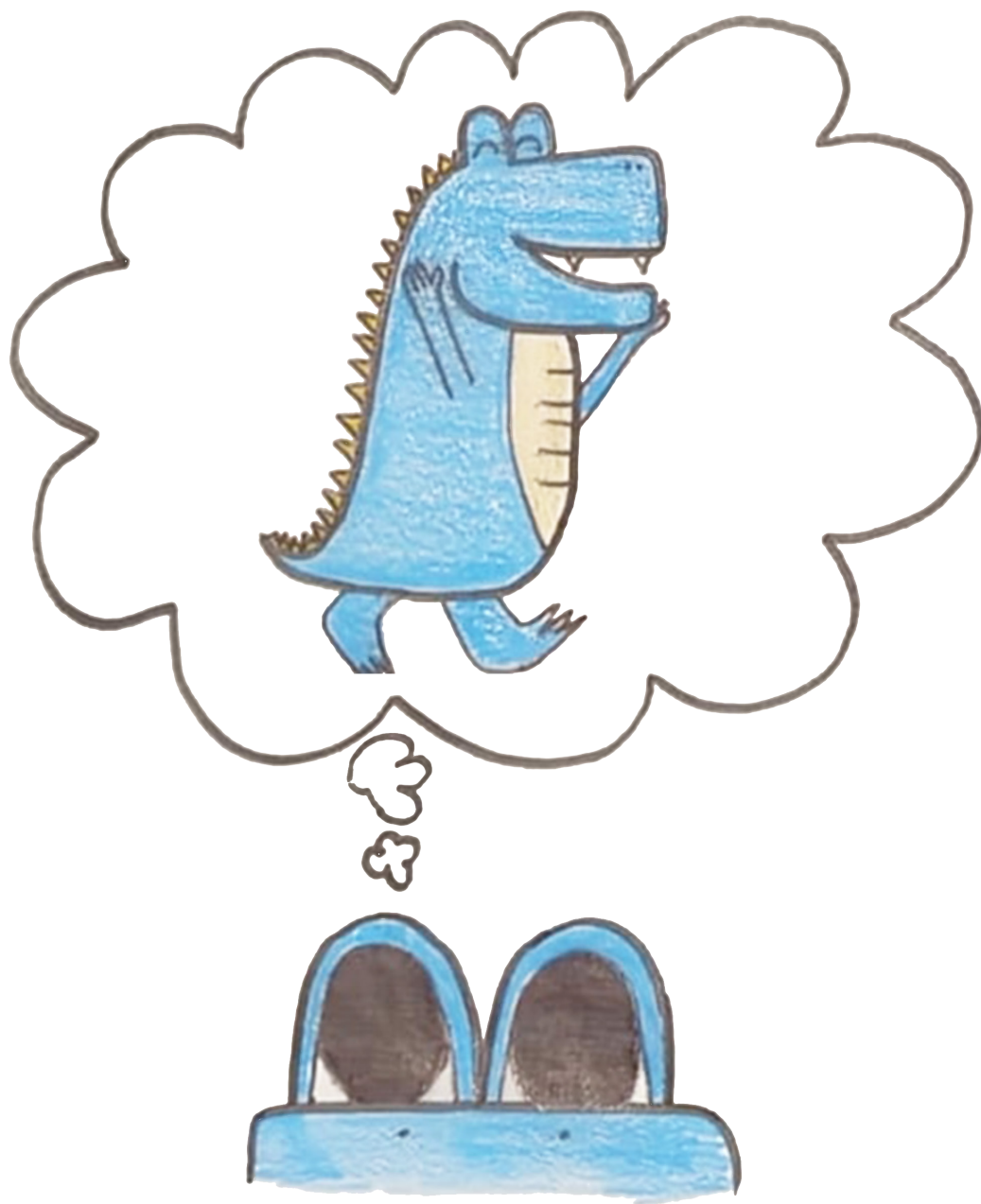
He can't reach the snacks



or give a big hug



or help his mom lift up his bedroom rug.

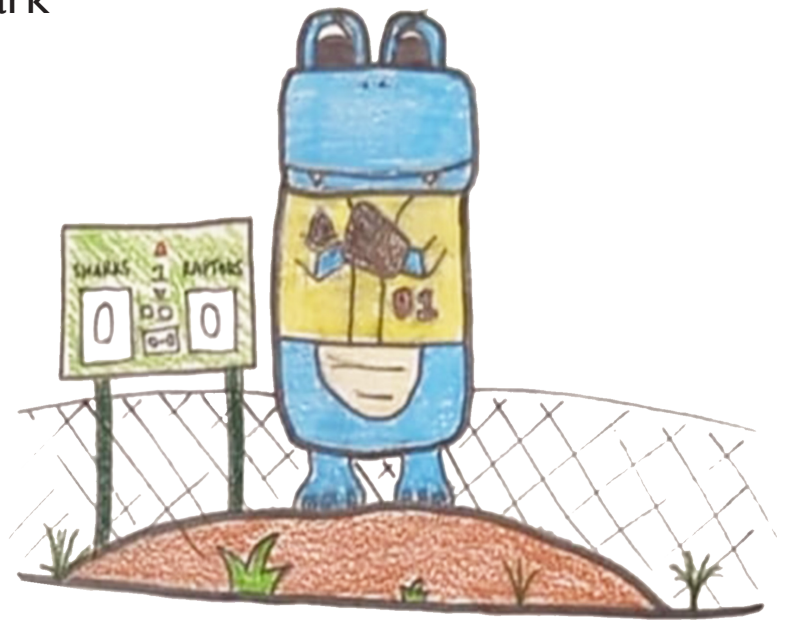
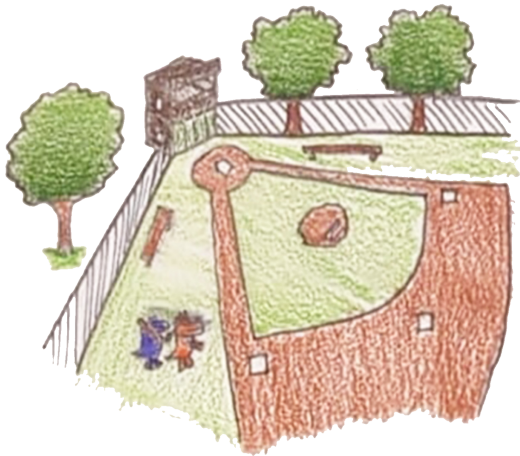


All that Tate wished he could do,
was do everything his dino friends could do.



So his friends made a plan, one to help Tate.
They found things that could bounce and things that could skate.

First up was baseball, out in the park

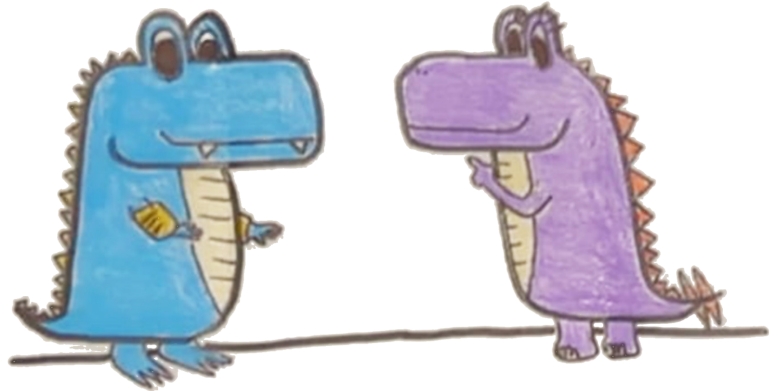
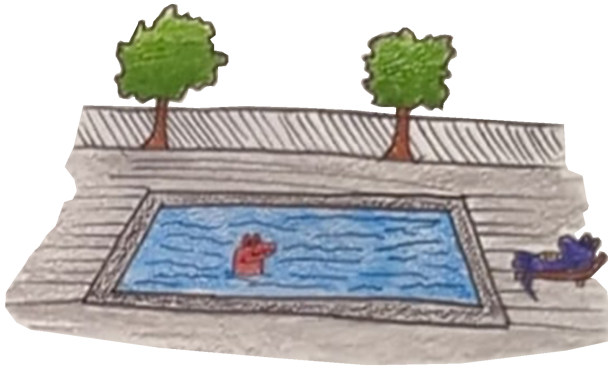


and with Tate on the mound, he really felt like a Shark!



But after a few pitches, the team began to remark,
“This inning won’t be over until it is dark!”

Next up was swimming, down at the pool.



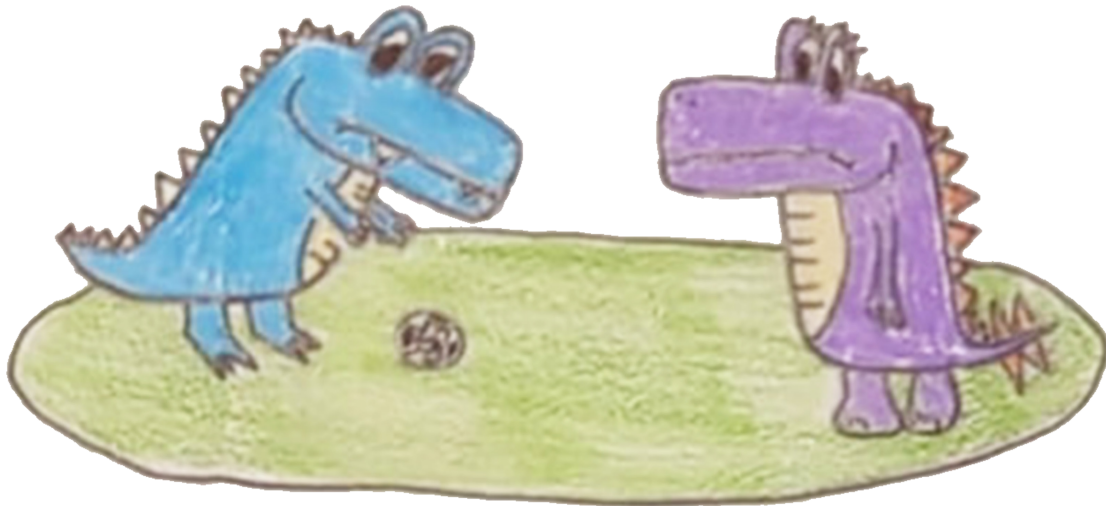
“Remember,” his friends said, “kicking is the tool.”



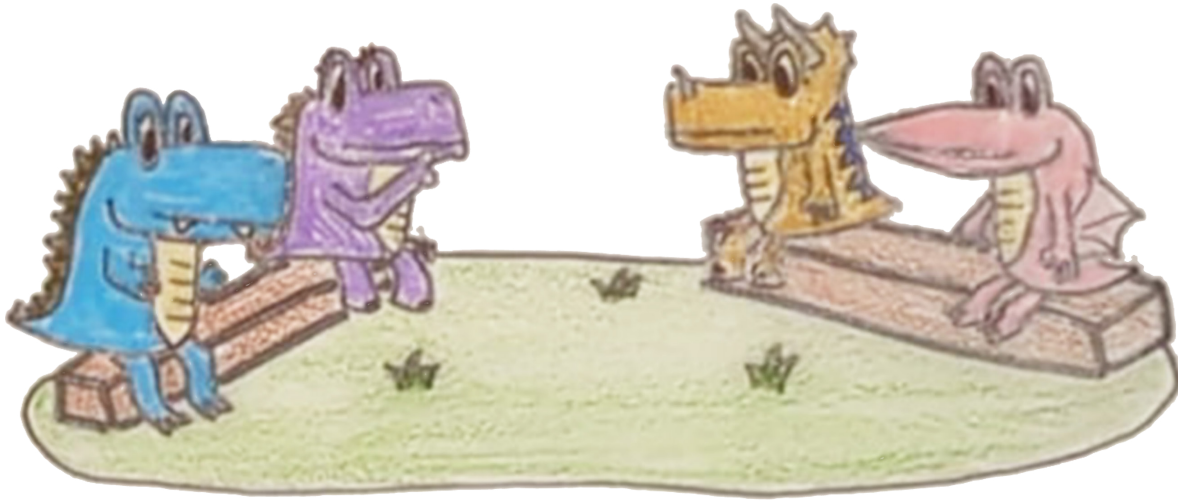
But after a while, the other dinos began to stare,
as it appeared that Tate was going nowhere.



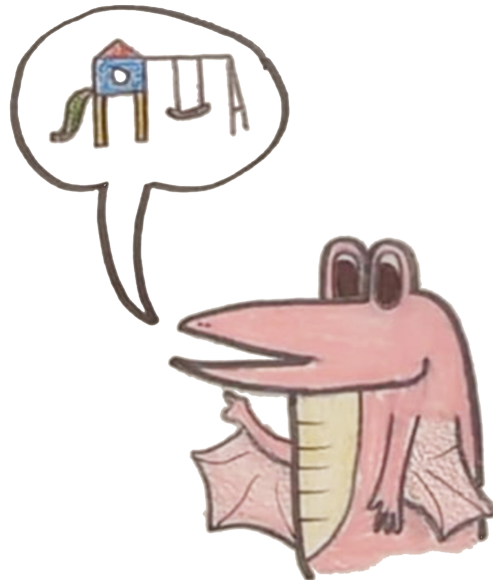
They tried soccer since you only use your feet,
and for a while, it was pretty sweet!



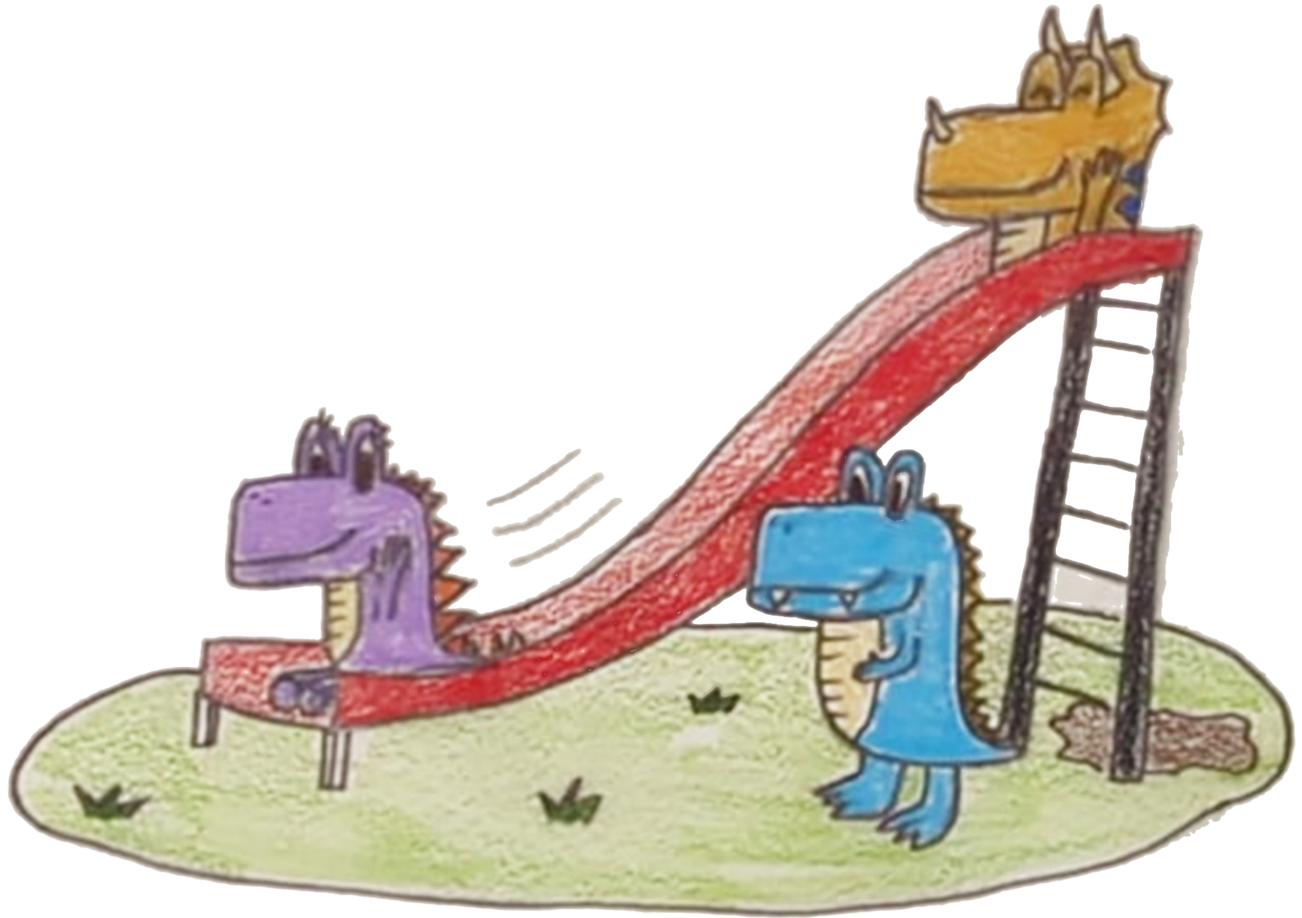
But when the ball went out and needed to be tossed in,
this idea went straight into the trash bin.



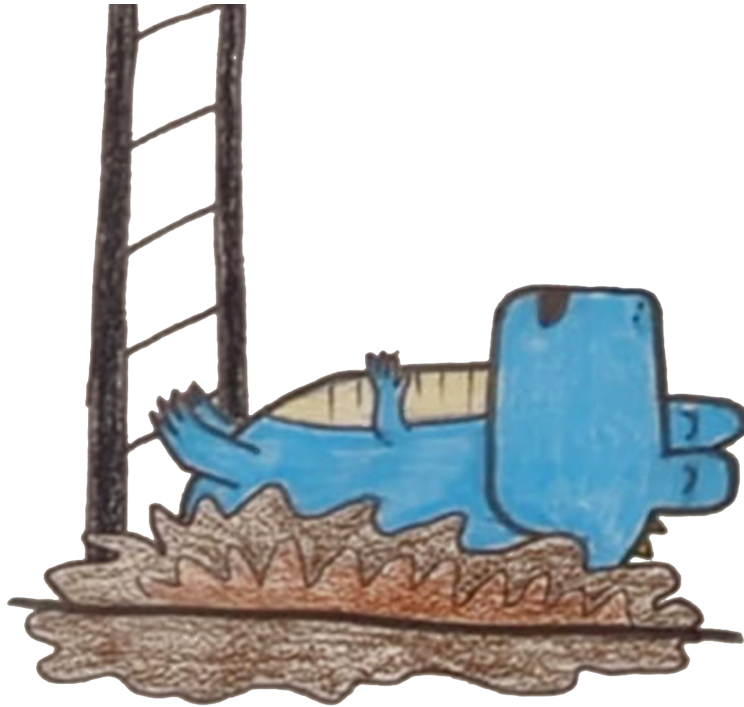
No luck with sports, his friends began to brew,
a strategy, a tactic, something brand new.



Maybe, they thought, over at the playground,
is where your new exciting thing can be found.

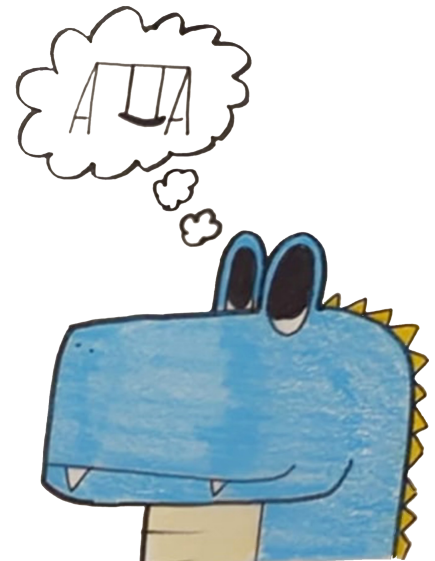


First was the slide, and with his friends whooshing past,
Tate felt, “Maybe this is my place, at last.”

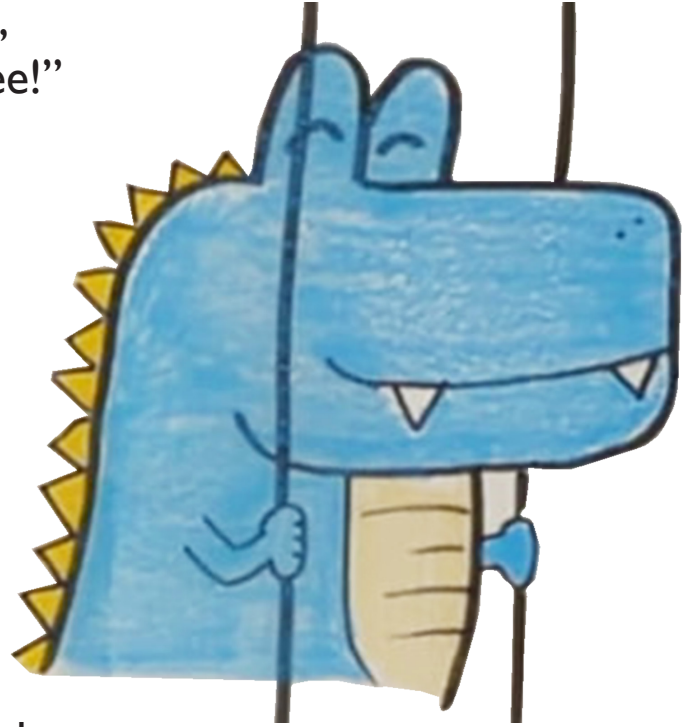


But that wasn't the case, in fact it was a dud, because Tate couldn't climb the ladder and fell with a huge **THUD**.

Perhaps the swings, he thought, would bring him better luck, at least this time he couldn't land in the muck.



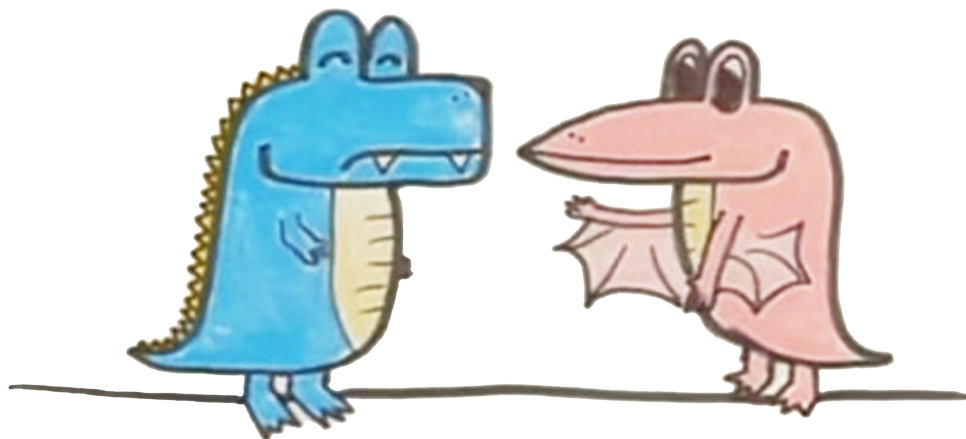
He hopped right on, confident as can be,
“I can’t wait to soar, just watch, you’ll see!”



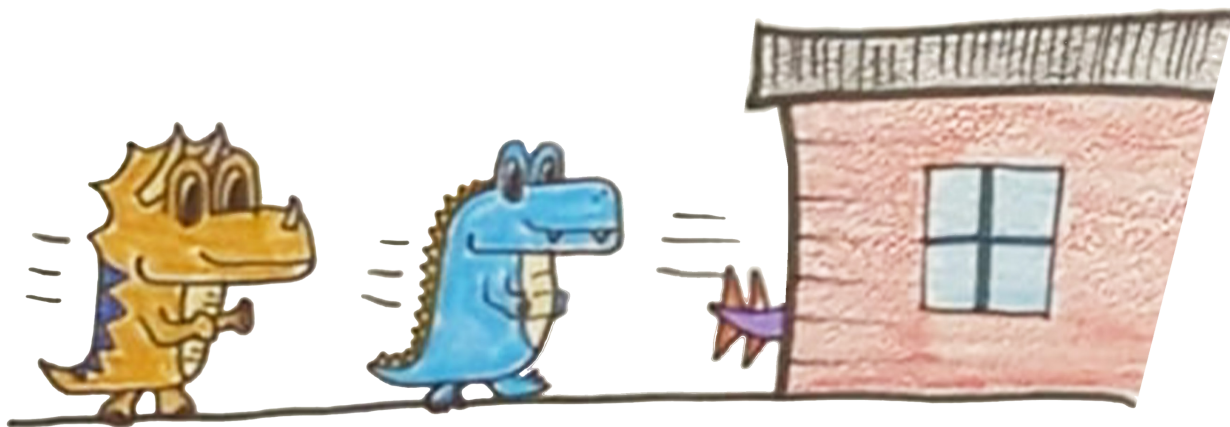
His friends, so excited, gave him a big push,



and soar he did, right into a bush.

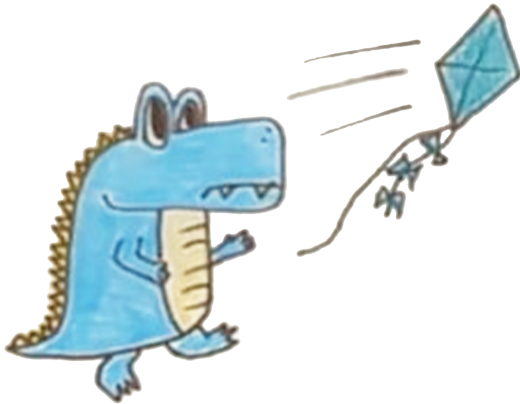


Discouraged and sad, Tate was getting upset.
“We’ve got this,” voiced his friends, “don’t worry or fret!”

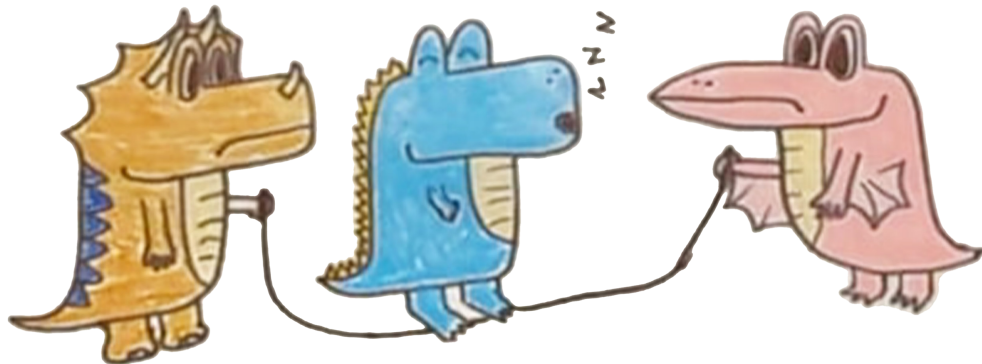


They ran to Stella’s house and over to the shed,
“Let’s try some of these new things!” his friends said.

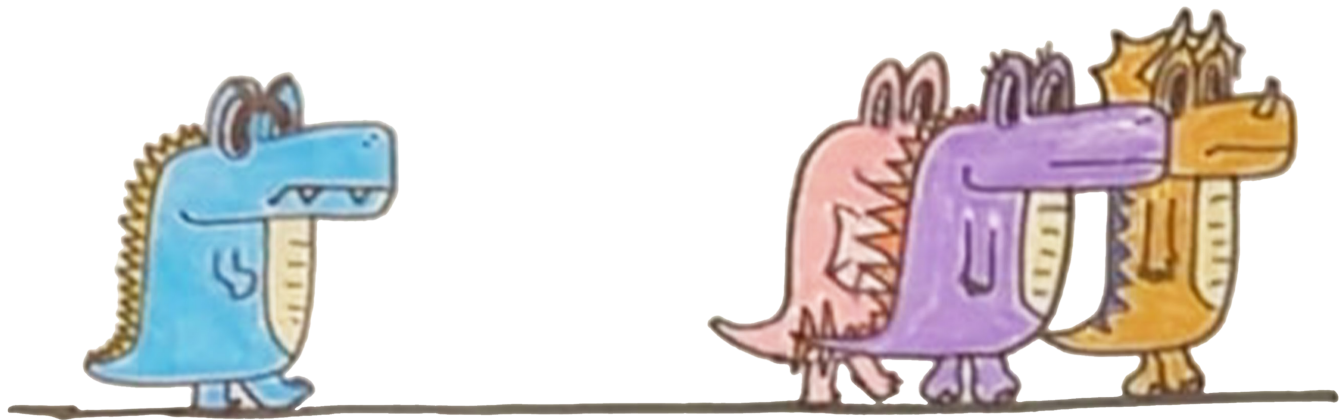
They tried jump rope and kites,



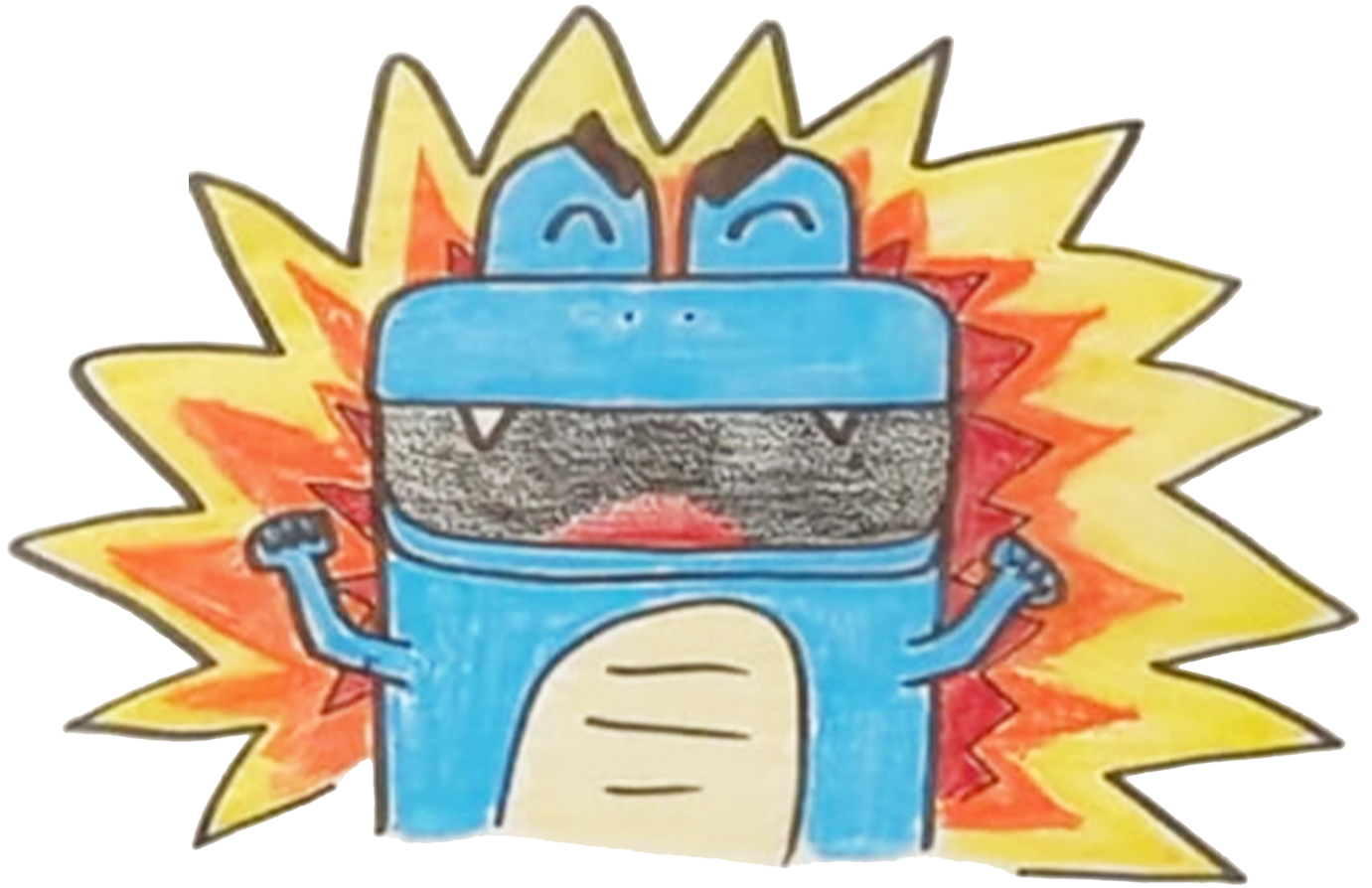
hopscotch and skateboarding,



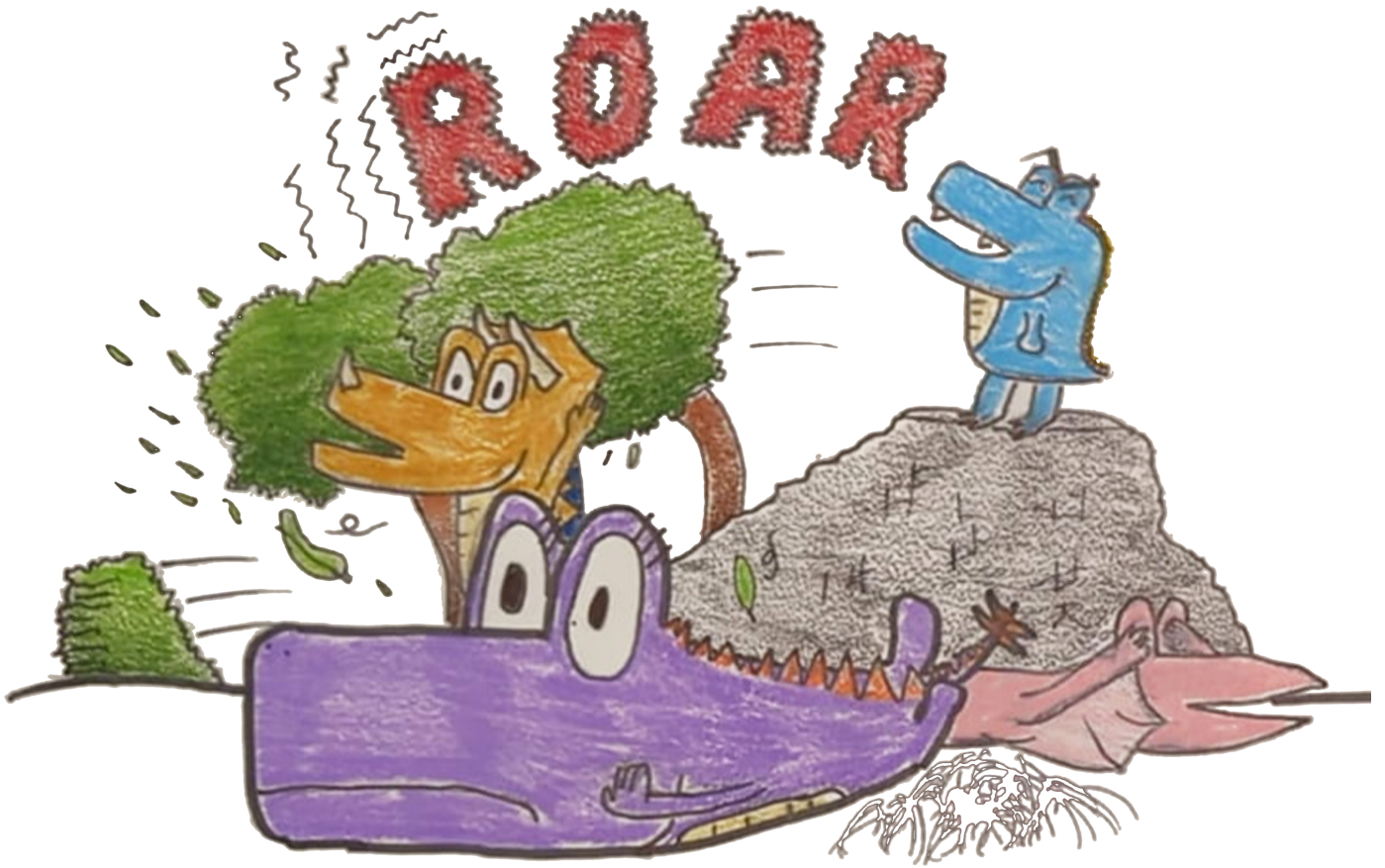
but most didn't work, and others were too boring.



Out of ideas, they all left for some food,
and Tate the T-Rex was definitely in a mood.

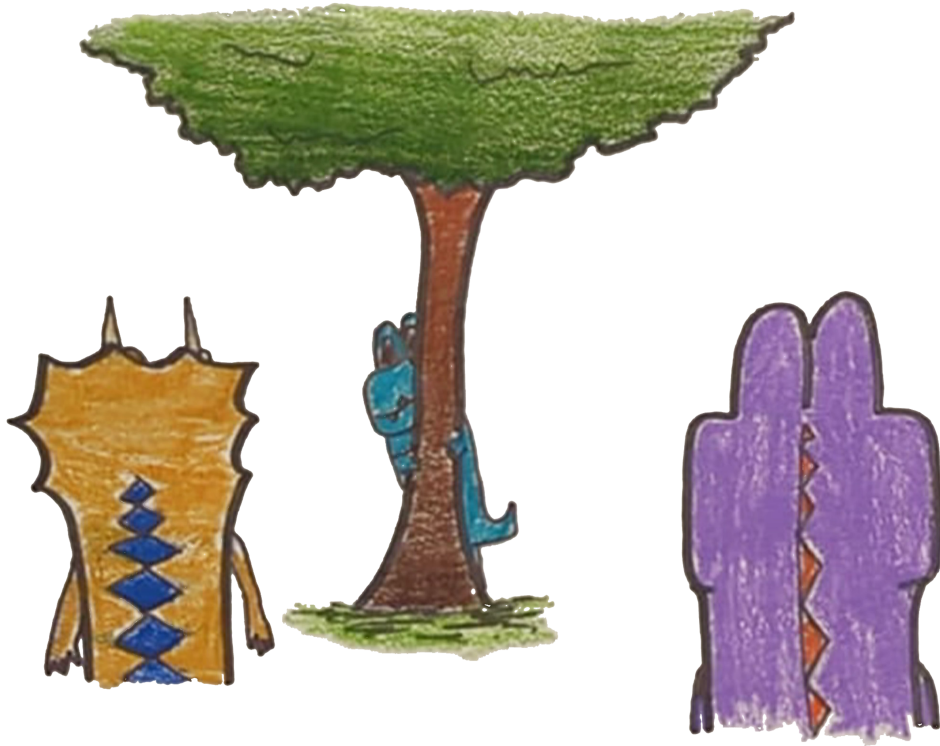


“It’s not fair that I don’t get to play, my short arms keep ruining my day!”

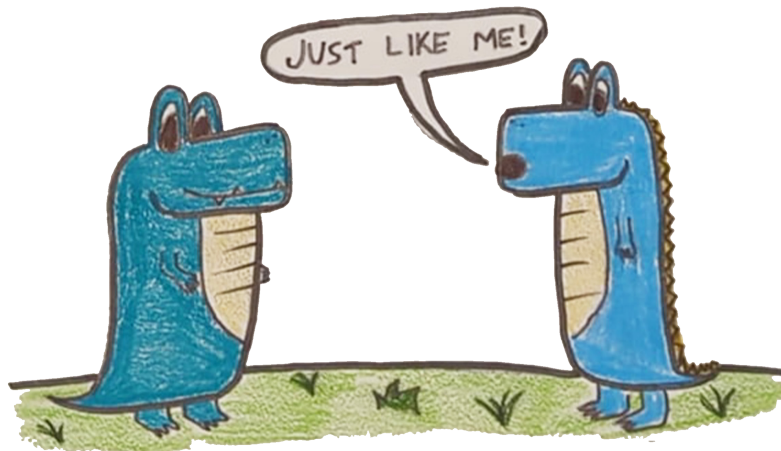


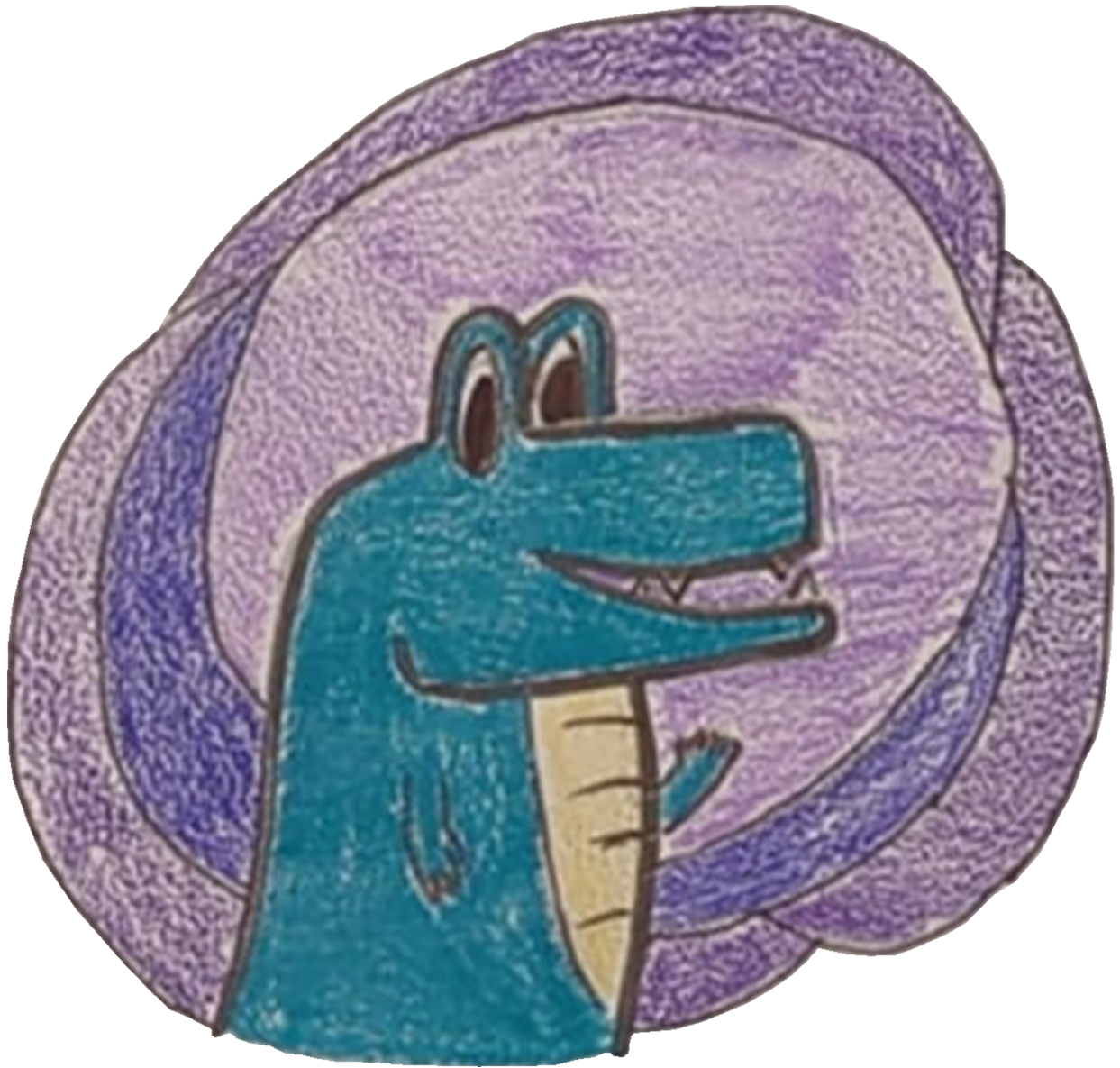
As he turned red, everyone hit the floor,
ducking just in time for Tate's huge dino roar.

But then a voice appeared, one no one had heard before,
and out stepped a new dinosaur.

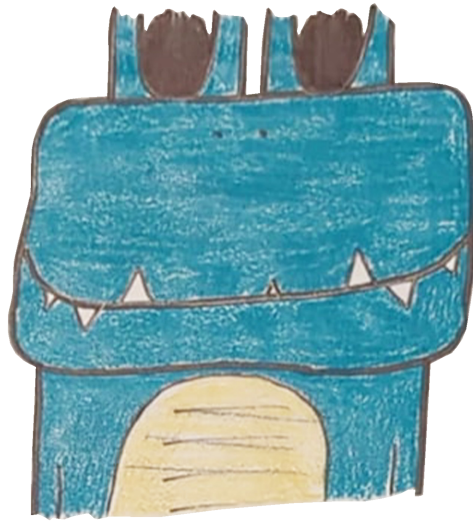


From out behind the tree, everyone could see
that this dino also had short arms,

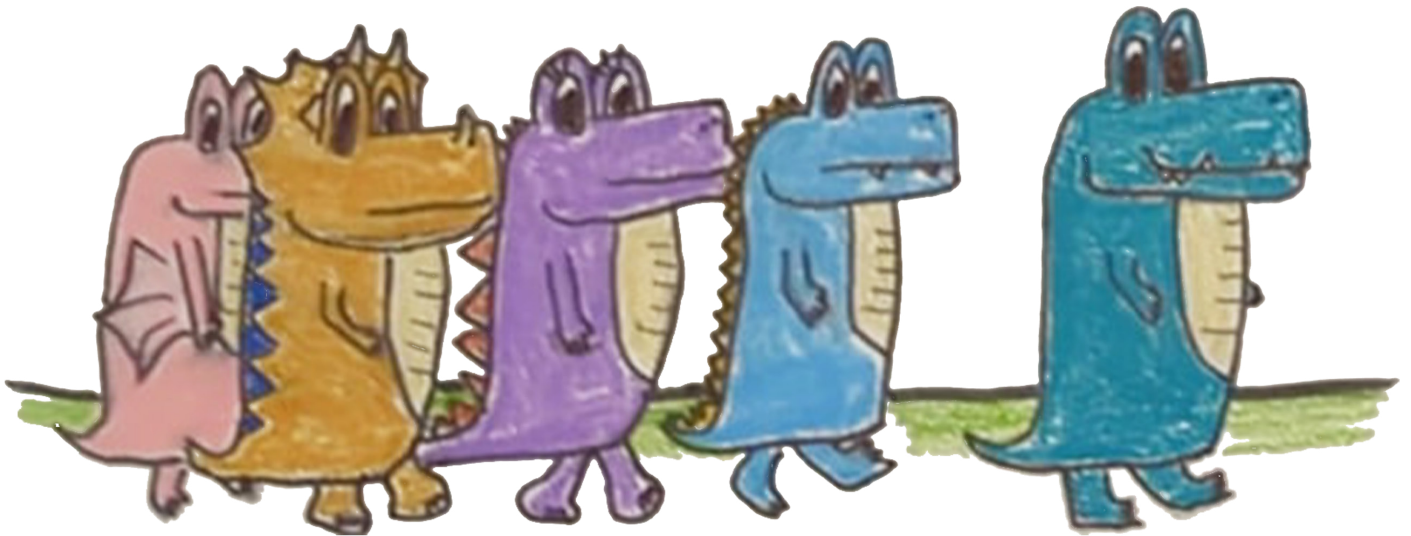




“My name is Barry and I heard your roar.
Can I show you a place you’ve never seen before?”

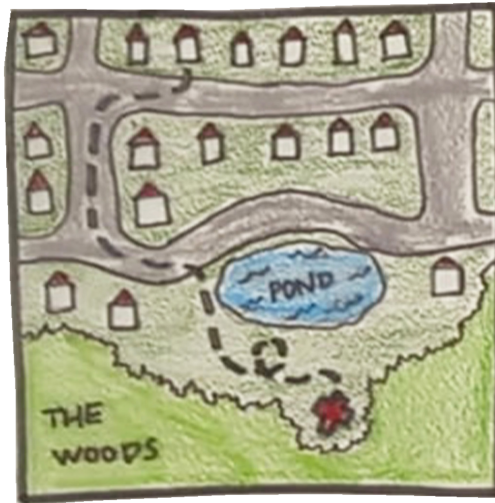


They were a little nervous because his teeth were quite scary,



but Tate and his friends decided to follow this dino Barry.

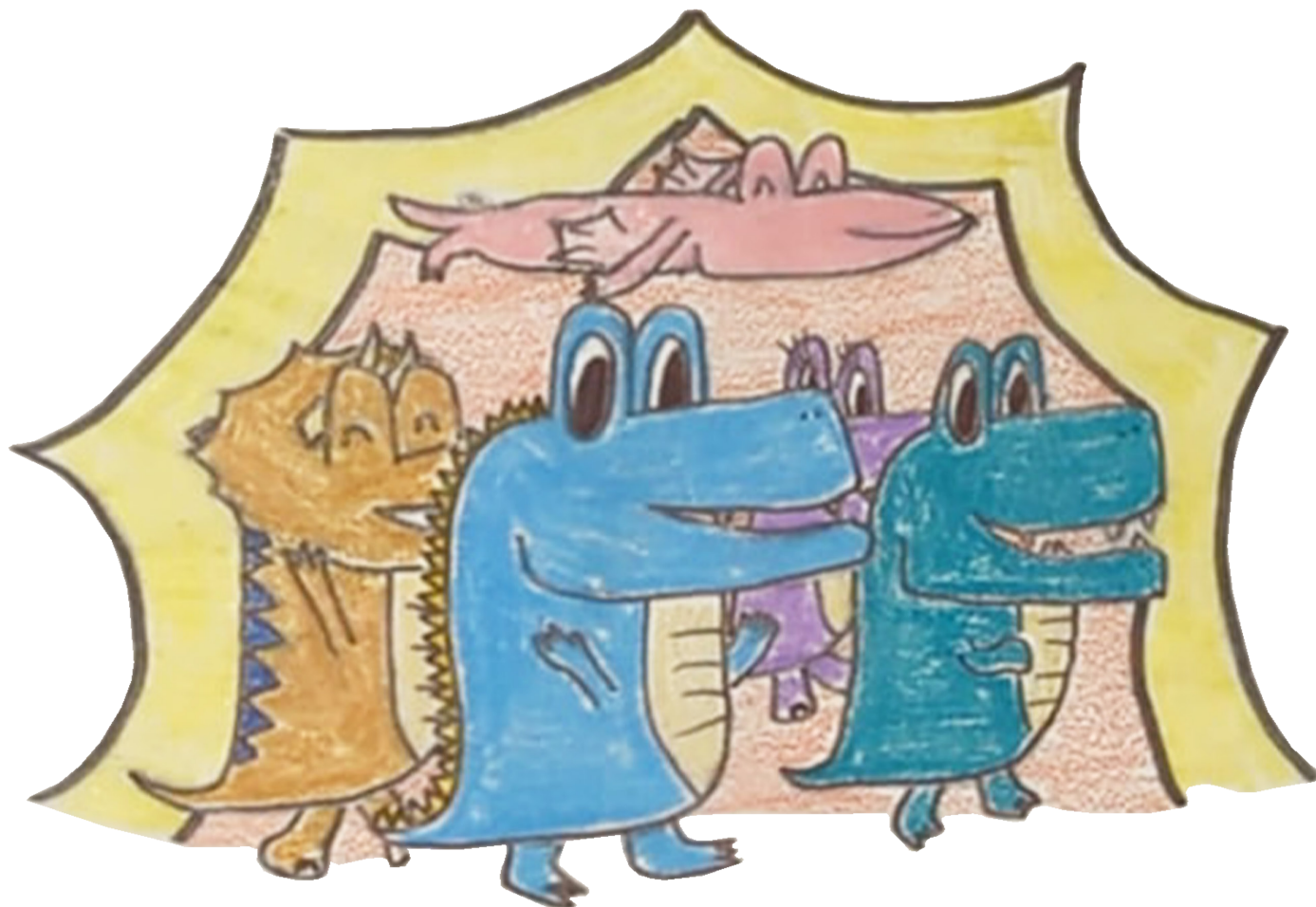
They traveled on sidewalks past houses, through neighborhoods,



out to a small park on the edge of the woods.

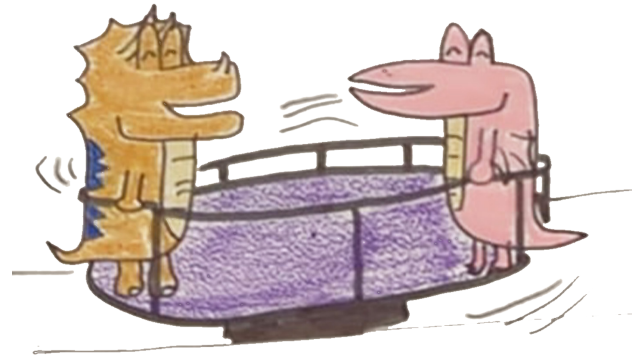
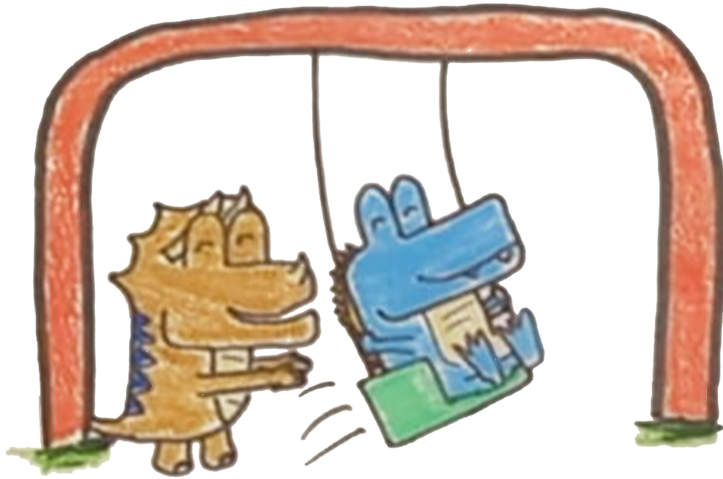


There sat a new playground that looked a little different, with cool slides and swings, it was quite magnificent.

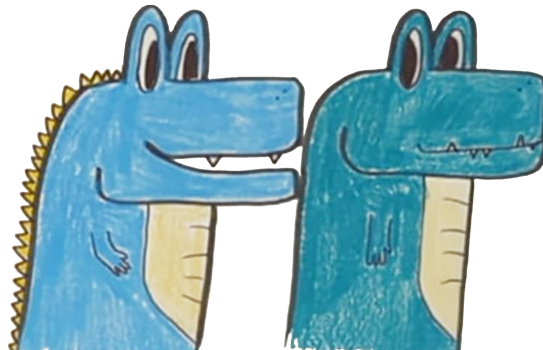


“Come on, let’s go and play!
We don’t want to waste any more of this day!”

Everyone played for hours and hours,

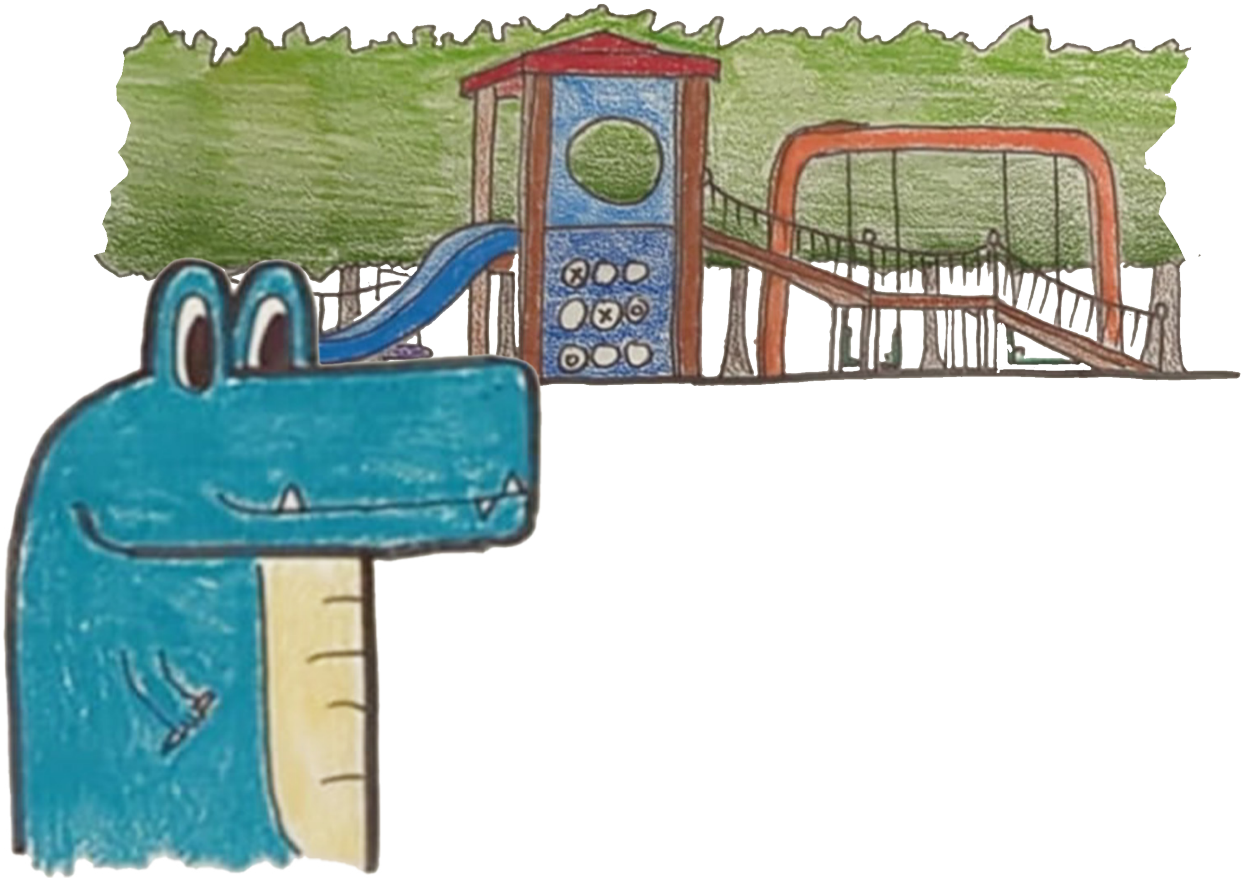


they swung on swings and picked flowers.



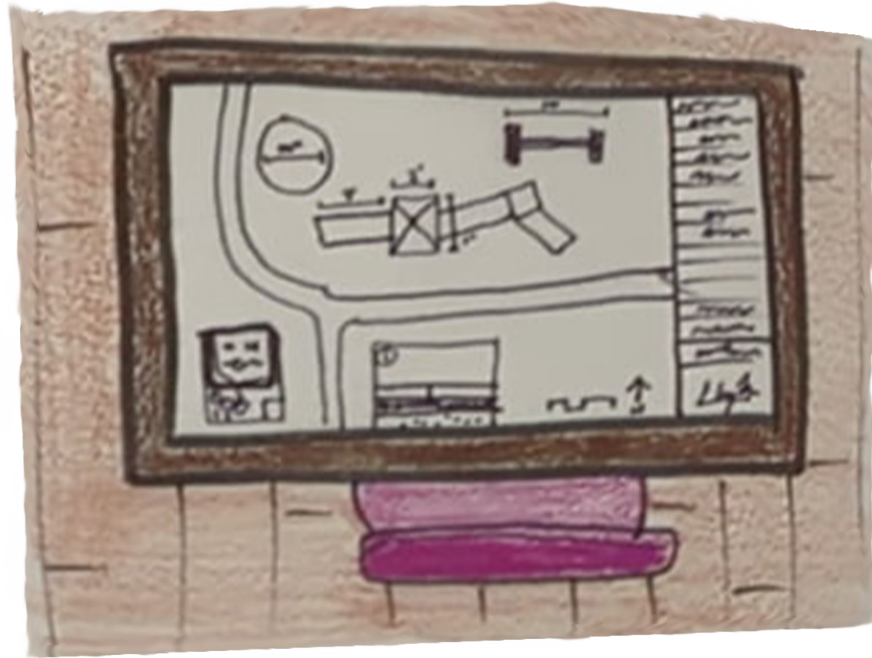
As the sun set and the day came to a close,
Tate asked Barry, "You've have troubles too, I suppose?"

“My short arms make it hard, but I never let it get me down,
Before this playground, it was hard to play and it made me frown.”

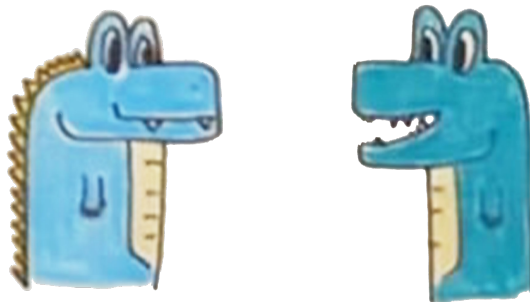


“So my dad built this place, his own little project.
He loves designing things since he’s a landscape architect!”

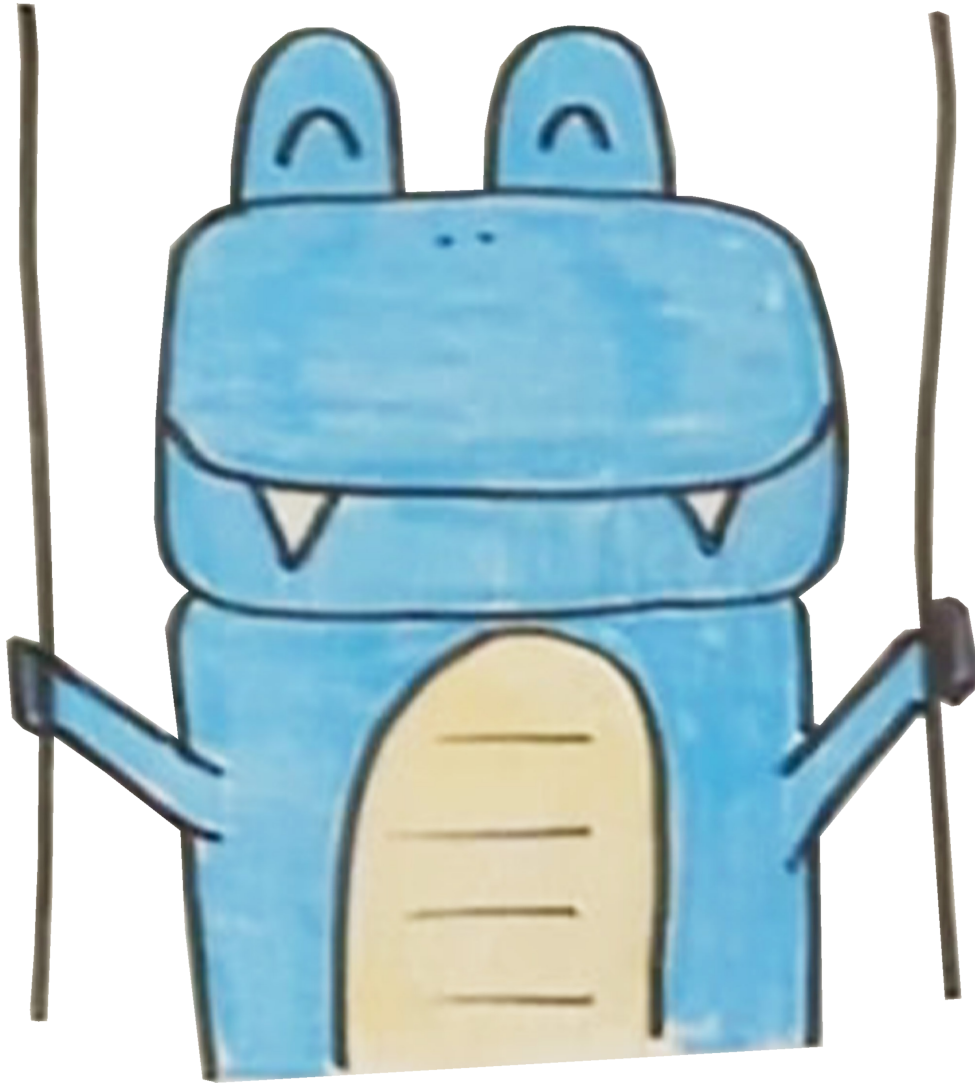
“All that I ever wanted was a place,
one that could turn my frown to a smiley face.”



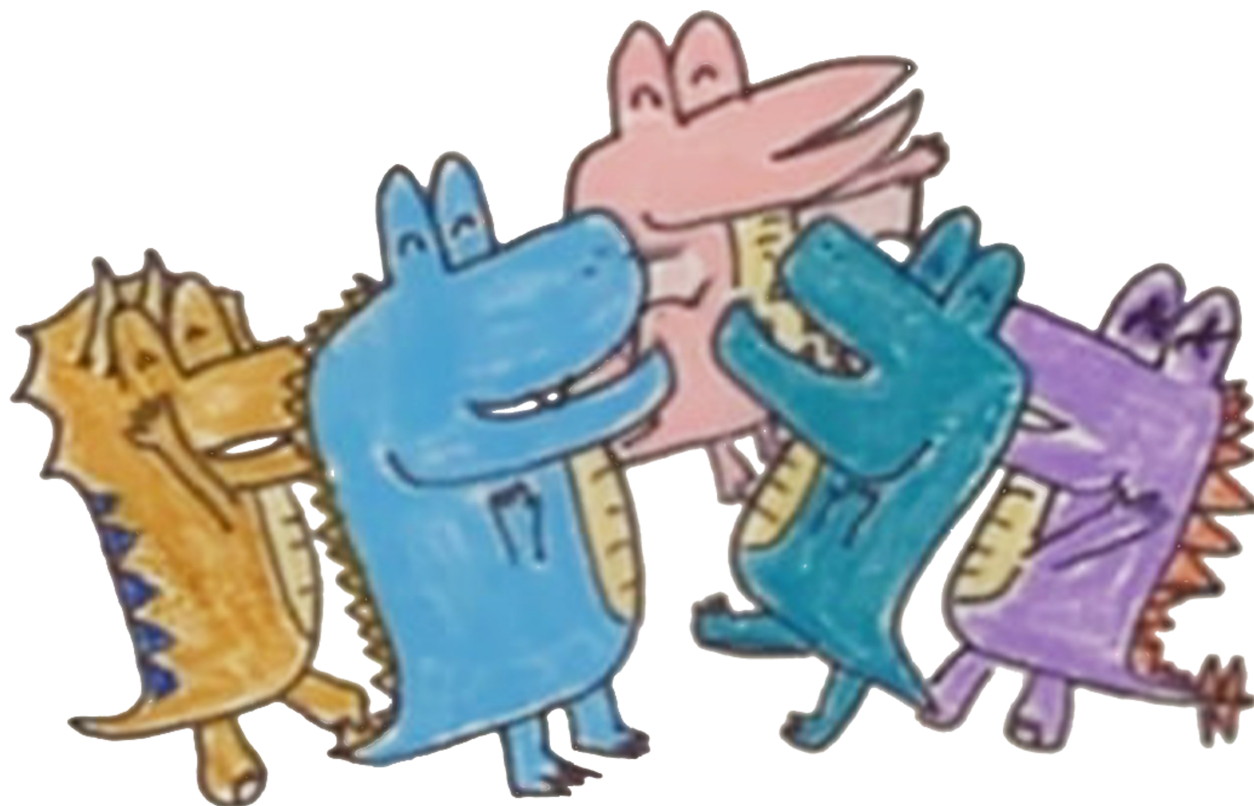
“My dad got busy and with his special skills,
created this playground with all of the thrills!”



“No matter who is playing gets to have fun,
and we could spend every day out here in the sun!”



So the very next day, everyone went back to the special place, and for the first time, Tate had a huge smile on his face.



Tate and his friends now come here every day,
so look in your neighborhood for a place where everyone can play.

What is an ADA Playground?

“Play is a critical component in the development of every child, offering physical, social, and emotional benefits.” (Resource on Americans with Disabilities Act)

According to the University of Northern Iowa and the National Program for Playground Safety, an ADA playground is a playground that has a variety of different experiences for children of varying abilities.

According to the Resource on Americans with Disabilities Act, an accessible playground, as defined by ADA standards, is a playground that provides children with disabilities the opportunity for play alongside their peers without barriers.

Not all playgrounds are equal in their opportunities. Often, kids with disabilities have difficult time finding playgrounds in which they can participate in and feel welcomed. It is important that within our communities, we incorporate different elements of play that all children can utilize.

The National Program for Playground Safety recommends that good accessible playgrounds have an ADA accessible path leading from a building or parking area to the edge of the playground as well as an ADA accessible pathway from the edge of the playground to each of the different play equipments. Play equipment must allow for children of varying abilities to access it directly or through a transfer station.

To find good ADA accessible parks, check your local parks department website and look for play equipment that meet the needs of every child, regardless of their abilities. Please note that most communities do not have ADA accessible playgrounds.



Tony Stewart Park - Columbus, IN

Created by NASCAR driver Tony Stewart, this racing themed playground opened in 2013 and is one of the most popular parks in the Columbus area.

Taylor's Dream Fort Wayne, IN

Located in Krieger Park, this playground was created by 11 year old Taylor Reuille and opened in 2011.



Millstone Creek Park Westerville, OH

This nature themed playground used kid input to shape a lot of the different play elements seen today, as created by the City of Westerville.





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