

Learning About “NO”!



By T. Albert Pen

Illustrated by www.maailustrations.com

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In this time of change many people believe that the word “No” is, shall we say, a less than positive word, and shouldn’t be used with children. Everything should be positive.

It is becoming a “Yes” world but maybe “No” still has its place.



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Sophia was excited. She was now in the 2nd grade and it was her first day of school.

As she finished her breakfast, she looked out of the window and saw all her friends waiting for the bus.



“Mommy, can I ride the bus?” she asked.

“Yes,” mommy said.

Sophia was even more excited.



She jumped up from the table to go to the bus stop. Then her Mommy said, “Yes, you can ride the bus next week but I’ll walk with you to school for the first week.” Sophia was sad and confused. She thought her Mommy said she could ride the bus but then kind of changed the answer.

**Sophia wondered why her Mommy just didn't say "no".
At least then she wouldn't have gotten so excited.
"Oh well," Sophia sighed. "Let's go, it is a long walk."**





Several days later, the music teacher talked with Sophia's class.

She explained about all the instruments and had the 3rd graders demonstrate each of them.



Sophia heard the flute and thought that it made the prettiest sound she had ever heard.

**“Can I play the flute?” Sophia asked.
“Well, that depends,” replied the music teacher. “First, you need to get your parents’ permission, and then join the band. You also need to know that learning to play the flute, or any instrument, takes a lot of hard work.**





Now, if you are willing to put in the work and your parents let you join the band, then the answer is YES. And I would be happy to have you join. We need another good flutist."

Sophia was so excited and couldn't wait to ask her mommy.

School was over and as Sophia walked out of the door,
she saw her mommy waiting.

She ran down the sidewalk, yelling out “I want to play
the flute. Can I play the flute? I want to join the band.”



**“Calm down, Sophia.” her mommy said.
Sophia took a deep breath, counted to three,
and said, “Can I please play the flute in the
school band?”**



“Yes, of course you can,” her Mommy replied.

Oh, Sophia was so very happy. She had gotten permission and was now going to play the flute in the band.





...



**Her Mommy then said, “Yes, you can play
an instrument just like I did.**

**The tuba is a great instrument and you can even
have mine. The same one I used when I was in band.”**



**Oh, poor Sophia, she was so sad.
She wanted to play the flute, not the tuba.
Sophia just didn't understand why her Mommy
said "yes" when she asked but really meant
"no". At least "no" for the instrument Sophia
really wanted to play.**

**“Maybe I won’t join the band,” Sophia said
in a low, sad voice.**

“Well, that’s up to you,” her Mommy replied.





As Sophia finished her breakfast, she looked out the window and saw all her friends waiting for the bus. She was so very excited. This was a special day.

**The week was up and she could ride
the bus with all her friends.**

**She squirmed in her chair as she gulped down
the last mouthful of milk.**





**“Bye mommy!” she squealed
as she ran towards the door.**

**“And if I can’t ride the bus, please say NO.
It is easier for me to understand.”**

MORAL

**“No” is a good word and should be
understood by all.**

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