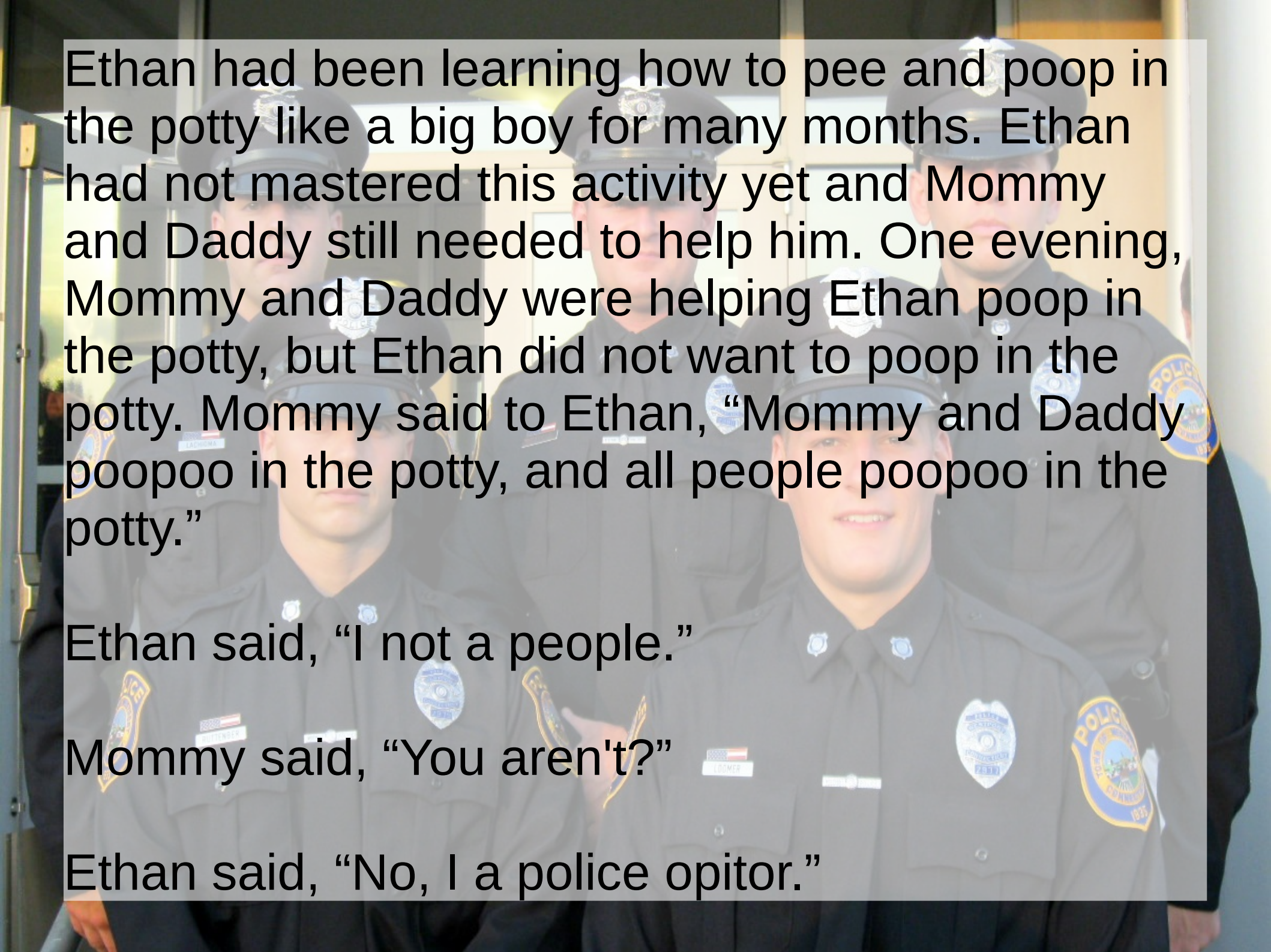


One morning, Daddy woke up and began to get ready for the day. Daddy was in charge of going to work and getting Ethan ready for school. Daddy made Ethan breakfast, but Ethan did not want breakfast. And Ethan cried and whined. Daddy tried to help Ethan get dressed, but Ethan did not want to get dressed. And Ethan cried and whined. Daddy tried to take a shower, but Ethan did not want that either. He cried and whined some more.

After trying so hard to make everything work this morning, Daddy got upset with Ethan because Ethan would not listen to Daddy.

The last step to being ready for the day, is putting Ethan in his car seat. Daddy put Ethan in his car seat and thought for a moment. Daddy decided he would not be upset at Ethan anymore, even though Ethan did not want to listen that morning. Daddy said, "Ethan, sometimes I get upset at you, but I love you."

Ethan looked back at Daddy to say, "I love nack nack."

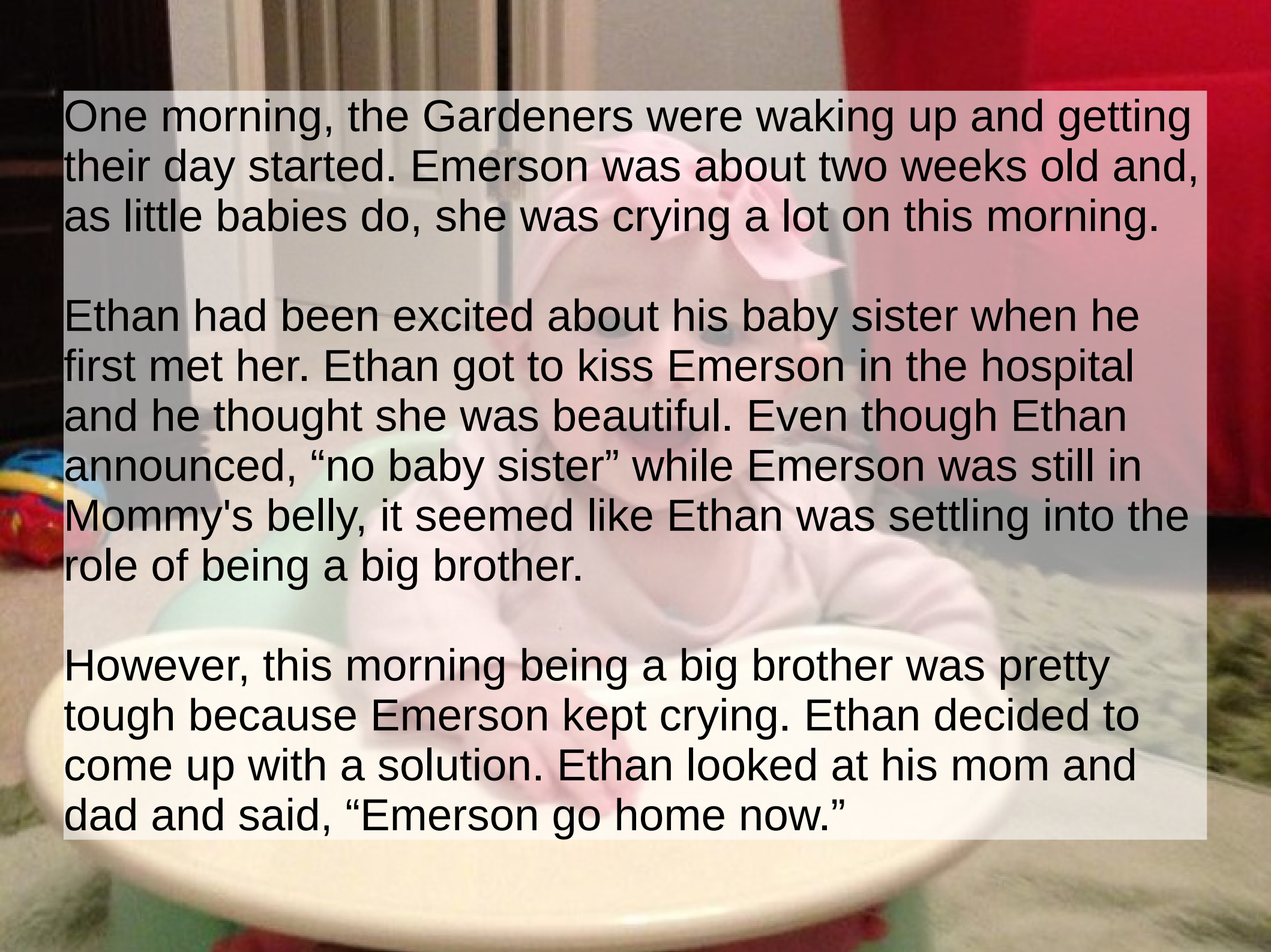
A background image showing several police officers in uniform. They are wearing dark blue shirts with patches, including a 'POLICE' patch on the sleeve and a 'SHERIFF' patch on the chest. The text is overlaid on this image.

Ethan had been learning how to pee and poop in the potty like a big boy for many months. Ethan had not mastered this activity yet and Mommy and Daddy still needed to help him. One evening, Mommy and Daddy were helping Ethan poop in the potty, but Ethan did not want to poop in the potty. Mommy said to Ethan, “Mommy and Daddy poopoo in the potty, and all people poopoo in the potty.”

Ethan said, “I not a people.”

Mommy said, “You aren't?”

Ethan said, “No, I a police opitor.”

A baby wearing a pink long-sleeved onesie is lying on a bed with a patterned blanket. In the foreground, a white plate is visible. The background shows a window with light-colored curtains and a red wall on the right side.

One morning, the Gardeners were waking up and getting their day started. Emerson was about two weeks old and, as little babies do, she was crying a lot on this morning.

Ethan had been excited about his baby sister when he first met her. Ethan got to kiss Emerson in the hospital and he thought she was beautiful. Even though Ethan announced, “no baby sister” while Emerson was still in Mommy's belly, it seemed like Ethan was settling into the role of being a big brother.

However, this morning being a big brother was pretty tough because Emerson kept crying. Ethan decided to come up with a solution. Ethan looked at his mom and dad and said, “Emerson go home now.”

Every night before bed, Ethan likes to ask Mommy about his family. Ethan asks Mommy, "Is Gaga at her house? Is GaDa at Gaga's house?"

Mommy would said, "Yes, Ethan. Gaga and GaDa are at their house." Ethan would ask about each member of his family in this way.

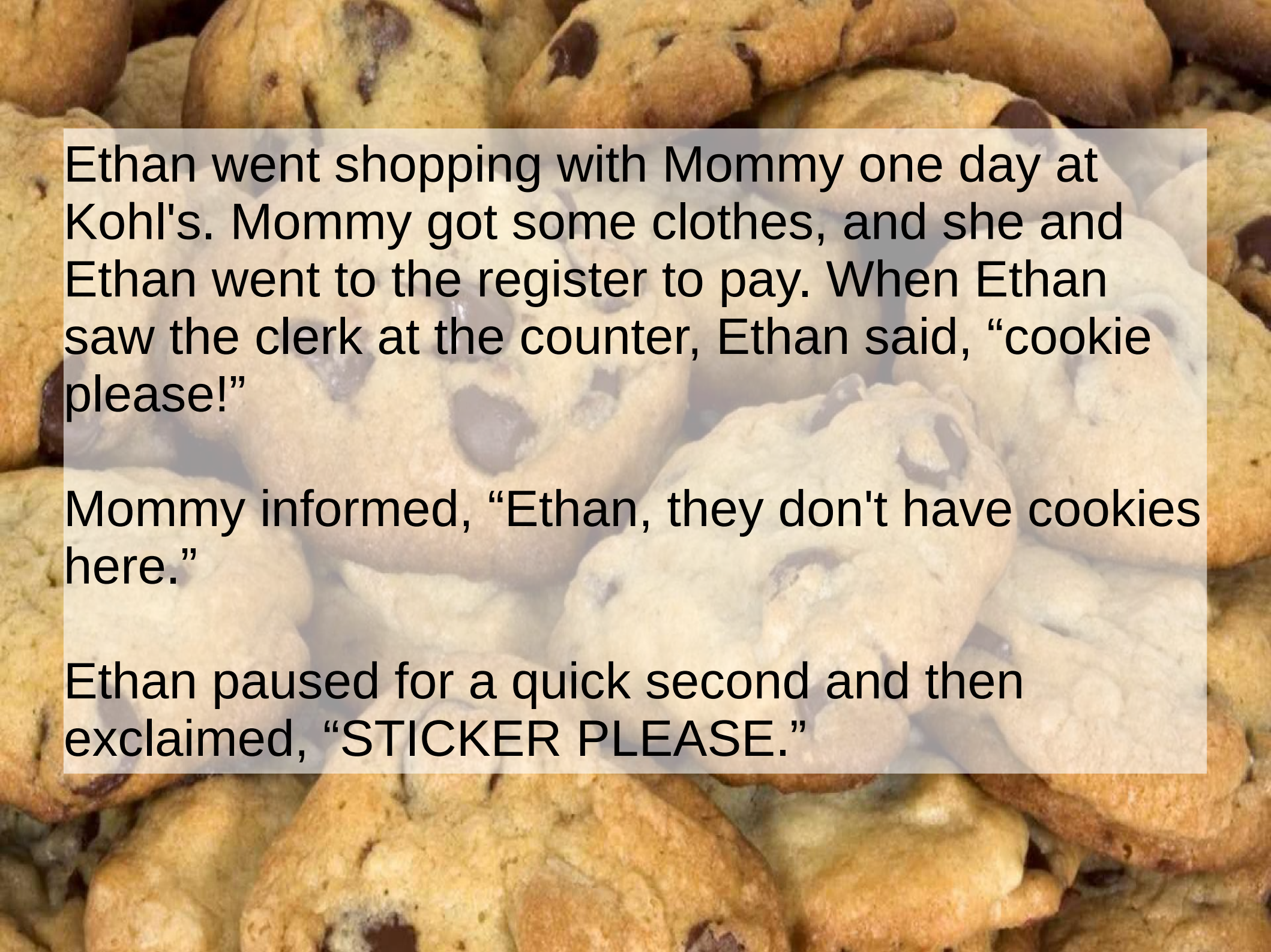
This night Ethan asked, "Is Aunt B at her house?"

Mommy said, "Yes."

Ethan said, "Is Uncle Chris at Aunt B's house?"

Mommy said, "No, Uncle Chris had to go on a trip for work. He flew on an airplane and he is far away. But he will be back soon."

Ethan looked puzzled by this. Aunt B and Uncle Chris are supposed to be at the same house. Ethan searched for a reason in his two-year-old brain why his aunt and uncle would not be together. Ethan said, "Uncle Chris no like Aunt B anymore?"



Ethan went shopping with Mommy one day at Kohl's. Mommy got some clothes, and she and Ethan went to the register to pay. When Ethan saw the clerk at the counter, Ethan said, "cookie please!"

Mommy informed, "Ethan, they don't have cookies here."

Ethan paused for a quick second and then exclaimed, "STICKER PLEASE."

One day Ethan's family wanted to go to dinner. Ethan invited over Gaga, GaDa, Uncle Chris and Aunt B so they could all go to dinner. Everyone met at a nice restaurant to eat. Everyone was sitting down looking at their menus and deciding what to eat. Ethan decided to make a bad choice and not sit down with everyone else. Ethan tried to stand in his chair, but his parents made him sit down and no one looked at Ethan. Ethan made another bad choice and threw his cup. Ethan's dad took the cup away and, again, no one looked at Ethan. Ethan wanted everyone to look at him but he didn't know how to make them look.

Ethan thought for a minute and made another bad choice. Ethan looked at Mommy and said, "I bite you!"

Mommy said, "Ethan, that is not nice."

Ethan continued to say, "I bite you." Ethan looked at all the people at the table and pointed to each of them and said, "I bite you!"

Everyone looked away and told Ethan he was hurting their feelings.

Ethan began to look at other people in the restaurant and say, "I bite you!"

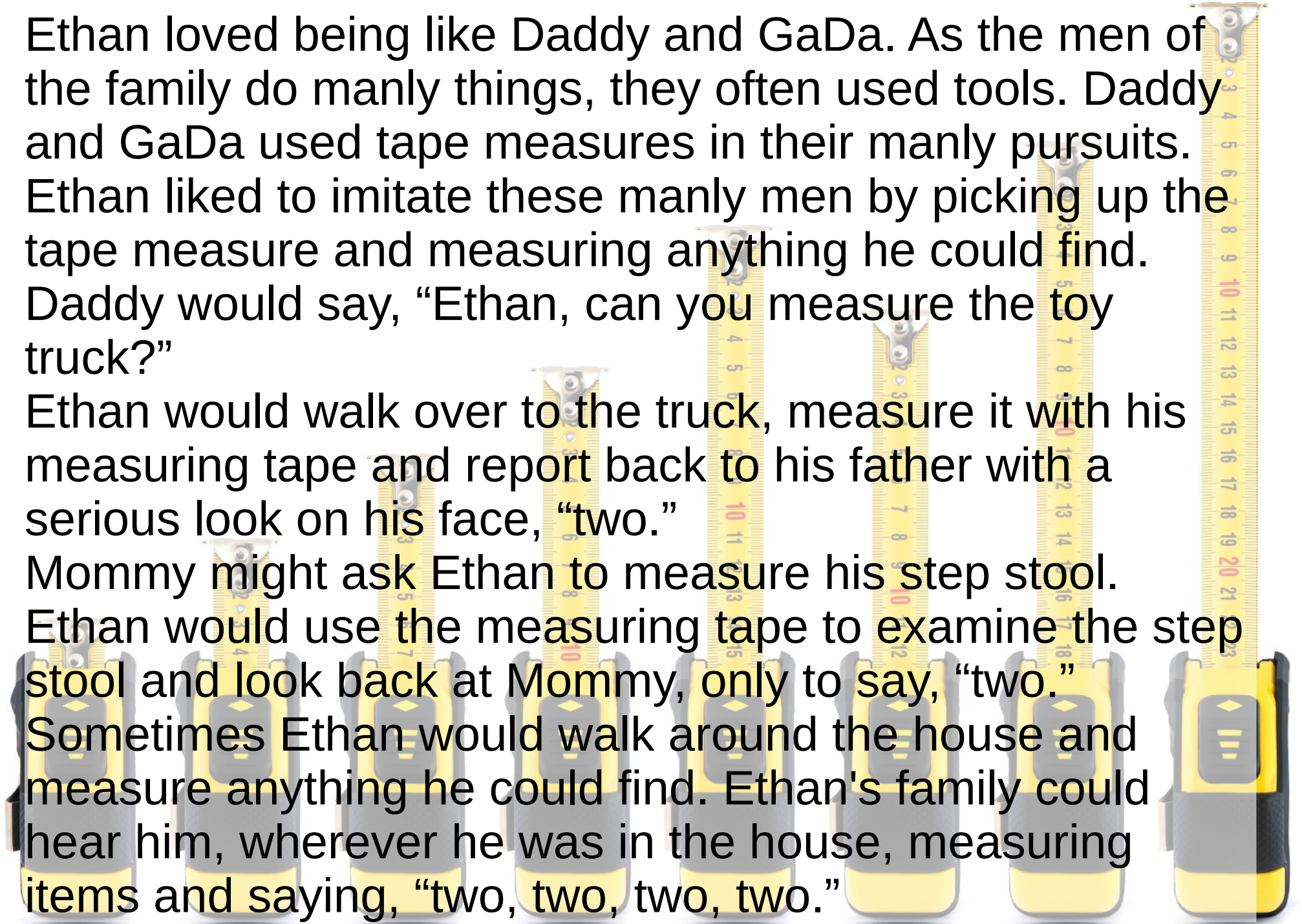
As people walked by Ethan, he pointed to each of them saying, "I bite you, I bite you, I bite you, I BITE YOU!"

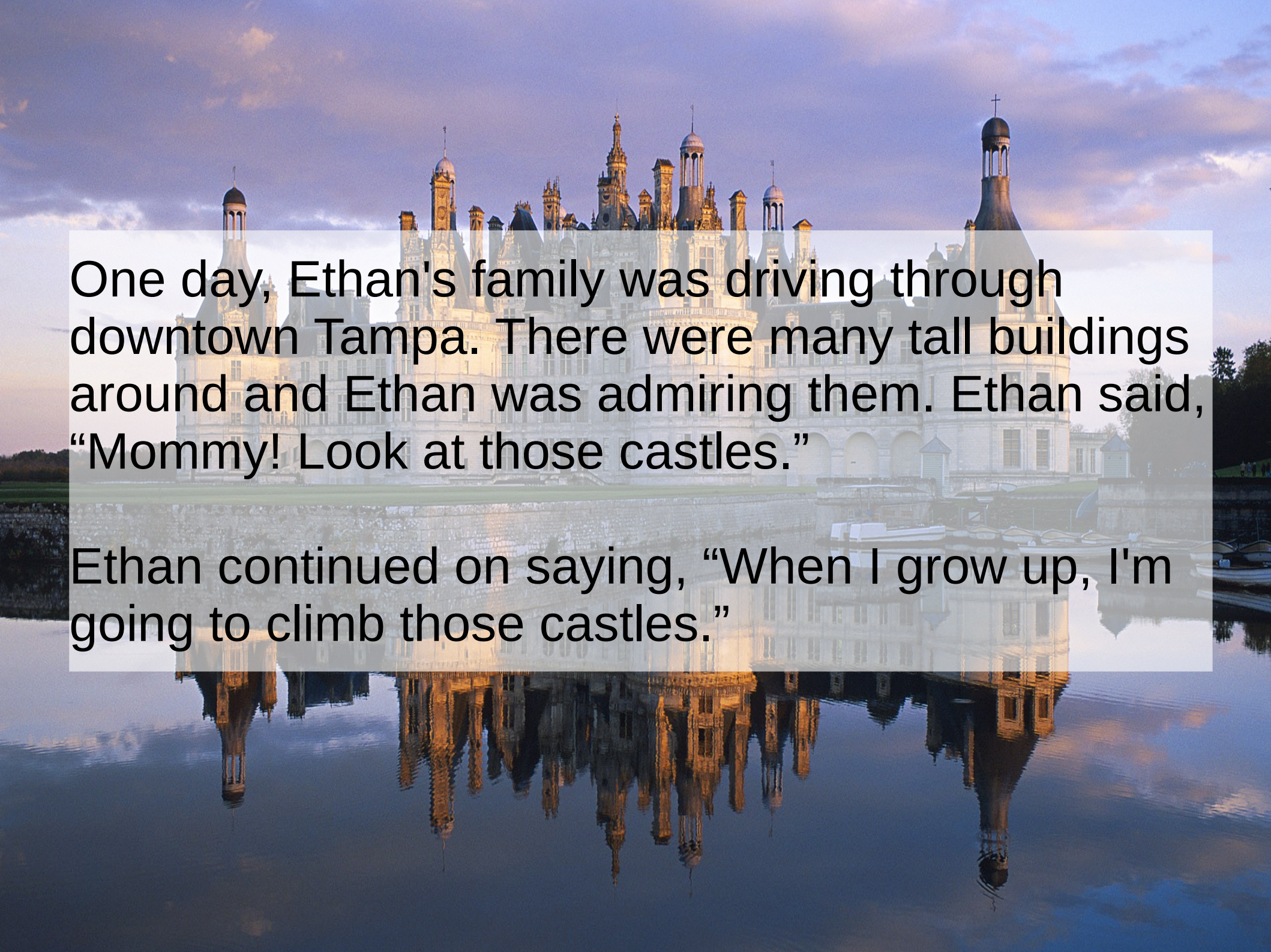
Ethan loved being like Daddy and GaDa. As the men of the family do manly things, they often used tools. Daddy and GaDa used tape measures in their manly pursuits. Ethan liked to imitate these manly men by picking up the tape measure and measuring anything he could find. Daddy would say, "Ethan, can you measure the toy truck?"

Ethan would walk over to the truck, measure it with his measuring tape and report back to his father with a serious look on his face, "two."

Mommy might ask Ethan to measure his step stool. Ethan would use the measuring tape to examine the step stool and look back at Mommy, only to say, "two."


Sometimes Ethan would walk around the house and measure anything he could find. Ethan's family could hear him, wherever he was in the house, measuring items and saying, "two, two, two, two."



A large, ornate castle with multiple towers and domes, reflected in a body of water under a twilight sky. The castle is highly detailed with many spires and windows. The water is calm, creating a clear reflection of the castle and the sky. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and majestic.

One day, Ethan's family was driving through downtown Tampa. There were many tall buildings around and Ethan was admiring them. Ethan said, "Mommy! Look at those castles."

Ethan continued on saying, "When I grow up, I'm going to climb those castles."

A photograph of a man and a young boy sitting on a brown leather couch. The man, wearing glasses and a blue and white plaid shirt, is holding a guitar. The boy, also wearing a plaid shirt, is holding a banjo. They are both looking at their instruments. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

The preceding stories were from Ethan's second year. We think they are rather adorable. Happy 3rd birthday Ethan! We love you.
-Aunt B and Uncle Chris