

Blossom Sure Start's
Bloomin' Dads Group



Cumulo Nimbus
stories for fathers by fathers



INTRODUCTION



How can we maximise the opportunities for children to develop close and positive relationships with their Fathers from the earliest years?

Research has shown that 'engaging Fathers in their children's lives from an early age should guarantee that they remain involved throughout their children's childhood' (Flouri and Buchannon, 2003).

At Blossom Sure Start we would endorse this view. One of our main aims is to enhance children's ability to learn. A recent survey suggests that parental involvement in their children's learning positively affects the child's academic performance (National Literacy Trust, 2009).

By acknowledging the benefits of reading to young children 'The Fathers Group' at Blossom Sure Start have compiled this booklet to endorse that message. Ten Fathers kindly wrote down their ideas and experiences as a story which they could share with their children. Each story was designed to show quality time spent as a family and the children got to be involved by drawing what they heard.

We hope you enjoy the book and that it will encourage all parents to make reading an integral part of their life.

Keith McAdam
Parenting Worker for Men



I would like to express my gratitude to all the fathers and children who gave of their time to complete this storybook. It is interesting and perhaps significant that all the stories are about the outdoors. Don't save it for a cloudy day, read it now and enjoy.

Mairead Abraham
Project Manager



Pigs Can't Fly



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

One sunny morning Hanna was shouting I want to see the animals. So did Cumulo. So I smiled and put Hanna, Bryce and Zara into the car and headed for Tannaghmore Gardens. Cumulo followed.

We started by looking at the goats then the horses followed by the chickens. Then came the pig sty where the Park Ranger was standing scratching his head Zara asked what was wrong.

He said that pigs can't fly but couldn't understand why one little piglet kept getting out into the donkey field where there was lots of apples. Cumulo knew he had been there before.

We watched the happy little piglet eating the apples with a fat belly. His legs looked longer than the others, the Ranger put him under his arm and carried him back then went off for his tea.

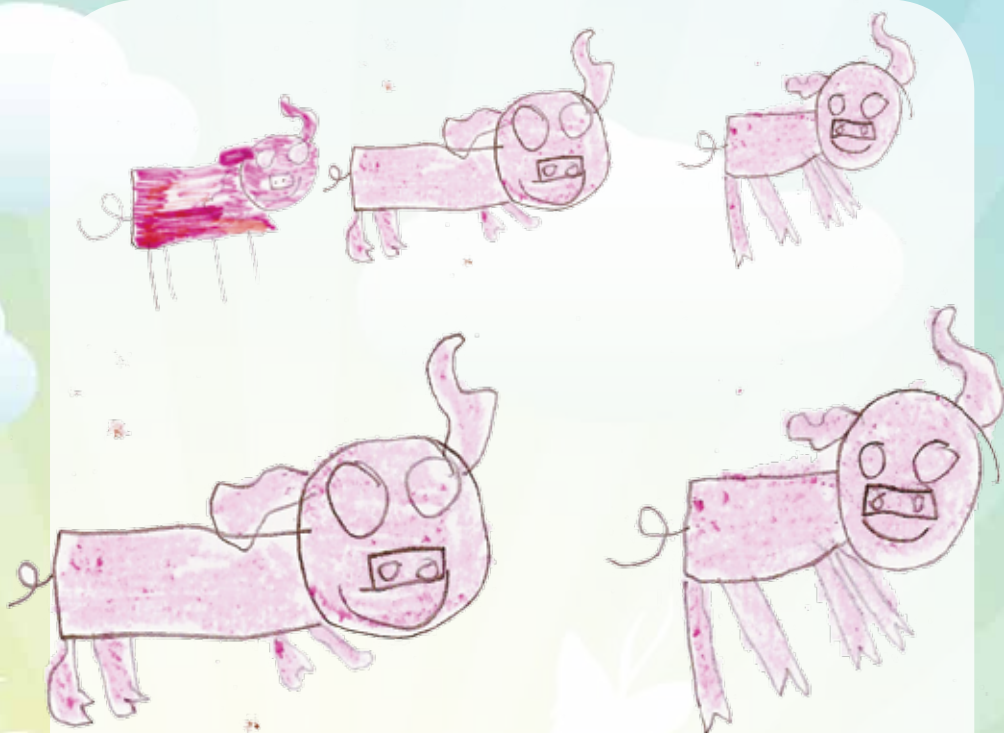
We watched all the piglets. The one with longer legs looked grumpy and ran round and round the style and then to our surprise he jumped over the fence into the donkey field, then started happily eating all the apples.

The Ranger came back and asked if we saw how the piglet got out. Bryce told him that it jumped over the fence, but the Ranger just laughed at us. So we went on seeing all the other animals before we left.

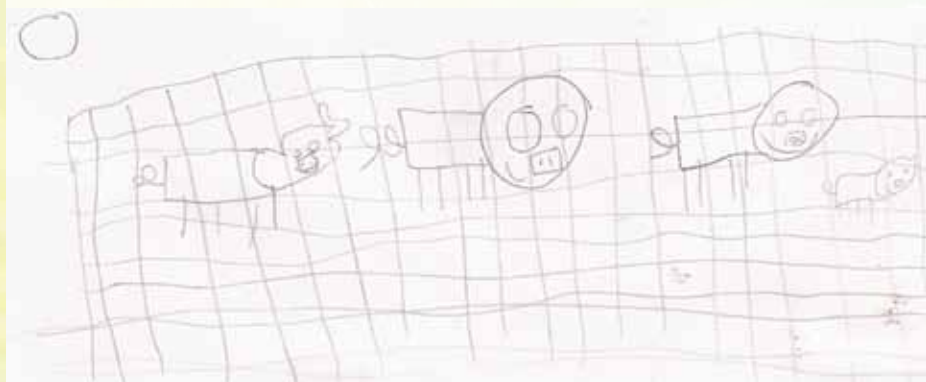
Pigs can't fly but we know one little piglet that is very good at jumping. Cumulo can fly. Off he goes for his next adventure. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

Paul Lonsdale





Drawing by Hanna Lonsdale, age 3



Drawing by Bryce Lonsdale, age 8



Say Cheese Cumulo

Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Alice's daddy is called Rodney. Rodney likes to take photographs. He has a lot of cameras, some big and some small.

Today Rodney has taken Alice and her two brothers Sam and Christopher into the mountains. Cumulo loves the mountains. They are so quiet and sometimes the tops of the mountains **tickle Cumulo's belly**.

Rodney and his children are climbing up the mountain. It is very hard to get to the top and soon everybody's legs are tired. 'Not long now' said Rodney as the children moan and groan as they walk.

Soon they get to the top and everybody cheers. 'Well done' said Rodney 'Now sit down on that rock and I'll get a nice photograph'. As Rodney takes the photograph Cumulo floats down and covers the children.

When they get back home Alice shows Mummy the photograph of them at the top of the mountain. 'That's not you' said Mummy 'That's a cloud'. Cumulo loves to get his photo taken. 'Where are we Daddy?' said Alice 'I don't see us in the picture'. Daddy smiled '**That naughty Cumulo sneaked into the picture again.**'

Cumulo floats off for his next photograph. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

Rodney Simpson





Drawing by Alice Simpson, age 3

Foxes Get Hungry Too!



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Cumulo floats over a lovely wood. The trees are so high that Cumulo can see the birds singing at the top and the little baby birds in the nest.

Down in the woods there is a big blue tent. Cumulo can hear somebody snoring in the tent. "Wake up daddy", said Kye. "Time to get up daddy", shouted Niamh. Daddy wakes up and rubs his eyes.

"I'm hungry", said Daddy. "Who would like sausages and bacon."
"Me, Me" shouted the children.

Daddy got his little cooker from the boot of the car and started to cook. The children helped, Niamh cut the mushrooms and Kye buttered the bread.

There was a big picnic table beside the tent and Kye and Niamh put out the knives and forks, and cups for juice.

When the children had finished eating there was some bread and a sausage left over. "**We'll feed the ducks later**", said Daddy.

As everyone tidied up, **a little fox crept up** and ate the bread and sausage. Cumulo could see the sneaky fox but nobody else did. "Where did the food for the ducks go", said Daddy. Nobody knew, well except Cumulo, "foxes get hungry too", said Cumulo as he floated off for his next adventure. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

William Bryars



Drawing by Niamh Bryars, age 4



The Big Scary Cloud



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Cumulo is lost. Up ahead are a whole lot of big black and grey clouds. They don't look very friendly. The wind is strong and is pushing him closer and closer. Cumulo is a little scared.

Suddenly this big black cloud booms like thunder 'What are you doing here, this is our sky?' **Cumulo was shaking** 'I think I'm lost Sir' replied Cumulo.

'You are too white and fluffy to stay here. We are cold sniffly clouds and then the big cloud sneezed and blew Cumulo away.

He was glad. He did not like the angry clouds. As he floated out to sea he looked down and seen a rope bridge and rocks that looked like a bees nest. 'He said to himself I'm not coming back here. The weather is terrible.'

Clever Cumulo. It is time to move on. Cumulo floats off for his next adventure. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

David Moore





Drawing by Lee Moore, age 3





First Aid

Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Down below a daddy is putting things into the back of his car. The daddy is called Barry. First he puts in a picnic basket, then he puts in a nice pink blanket and then two little bicycles. 'come on Louise and Nicola' he shouts 'we're going on a picnic'.

It's a lovely sunny day and Cumulo has gone for a snooze, but he is suddenly wakened by a little girl screaming. Barry and his girls have arrived in the park but Louise has fallen off her bike. She has scrapped her knees and one of them is bleeding. She is very upset and is crying very loudly.

Luckily Louise's dad Barry has been trained by **Blossom Sure Start** to do first aid. He has a little green box in his car with a white cross on it. Inside the box is cream and plasters. Very soon daddy has made it better and they have a lovely picnic.

Such a good Daddy thinks **Cumulo** as he floats off for his next adventure. **Bye Bye Cumulo, see you soon.**

Barry McGimpsey





Drawing by Louise McGimpsey, age 2



Kitty the Cat



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

He sees Kitty. Kitty is black and brown striped cat. She lives with Amy and Eoin and their Mum and Dad. She likes to play with balls of string and rubber mice that squeak when you pounce on them. She is an indoor cat but she also likes going out for adventures.

Once she followed Amy and Eoin when they went for a walk. They crossed busy roads with their mum but Kitty did not have anyone to help her accross. It was very noisy, cars rushing up and down. She got accross safely but found that she couldn't see Amy or Eoin anywhere and didn't know her way home.

It started to get dark and cold. **Kitty was frightened and hungry.** She didn't know what to do so she decided to stay were she had last seen Amy and Eoin and hoped that they would come back for her. **Cumulo was very worried.** He doesn't like the dark either.

Kitty waited and waited for what seemed like forever until at last she heard her Dad's voice calling her. Kitty had been found and she felt so happy she ran to them. She decided there and then that she would never cross a road on her own again. 'Good cat', said Cumulo and off he floated for his next adventure. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

Emmanuel Bell



Drawing by Amy Bell, age 4



Maggie



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Cumulo loves dogs. **Maggie is a greyhound**, a dog that runs fast and likes to race.

Maggie was very small and all the other dogs laughed at her. This made Cumulo very sad. He wanted people and dogs to be nice to each other.

Maggie loved to race but all the other greyhounds said she was too tiny and would not let her play.

One day **Cumulos' fairy friend Niamh** came down from her fluffy cloud to play with all the dogs. 'I am going to play a game' she said.

I will throw this magic ball of **fairy dust** very far and all the dogs can run after it. But the dog that catches it and brings it back to me will be my **magic fairy dog** and will always be special.

Niamh the fairy threw the fairy dust ball and all the dogs chased after it as fast as they could. But no-one could catch Maggie and she took the ball in her mouth back to Niamh.

No-one laughed at Maggie now. She was a fairy dog now and that made her special. 'Good' said Cumulo 'You are the best dog and I am the best cloud'. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

Andrew Larkin





Big Red Boat



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Eva and Ruby were spending the weekend at their caravan in Cranfield. They awoke in the morning to find it quite cold and cloudy. Eva was a little disappointed as she had been looking forward to her Daddy taking her and little Ruby out to sea in their big red boat. After breakfast they wrapped up warm and went outside to play in the park. Cumulo watched from above and smiled to himself as Eva and Ruby played happily together.

Eva told Ruby all about the boat and explained that Daddy would take them out if the weather improved. Ruby couldn't wait as it would be her first time.

Cumulo overheard them chatting and decided to help. He called to all the other clouds and asked them to move on. As all the other clouds left the sky the sun came out bright and strong in the clear, blue sky. The only cloud that could be seen was Cumulo watching from the distance.

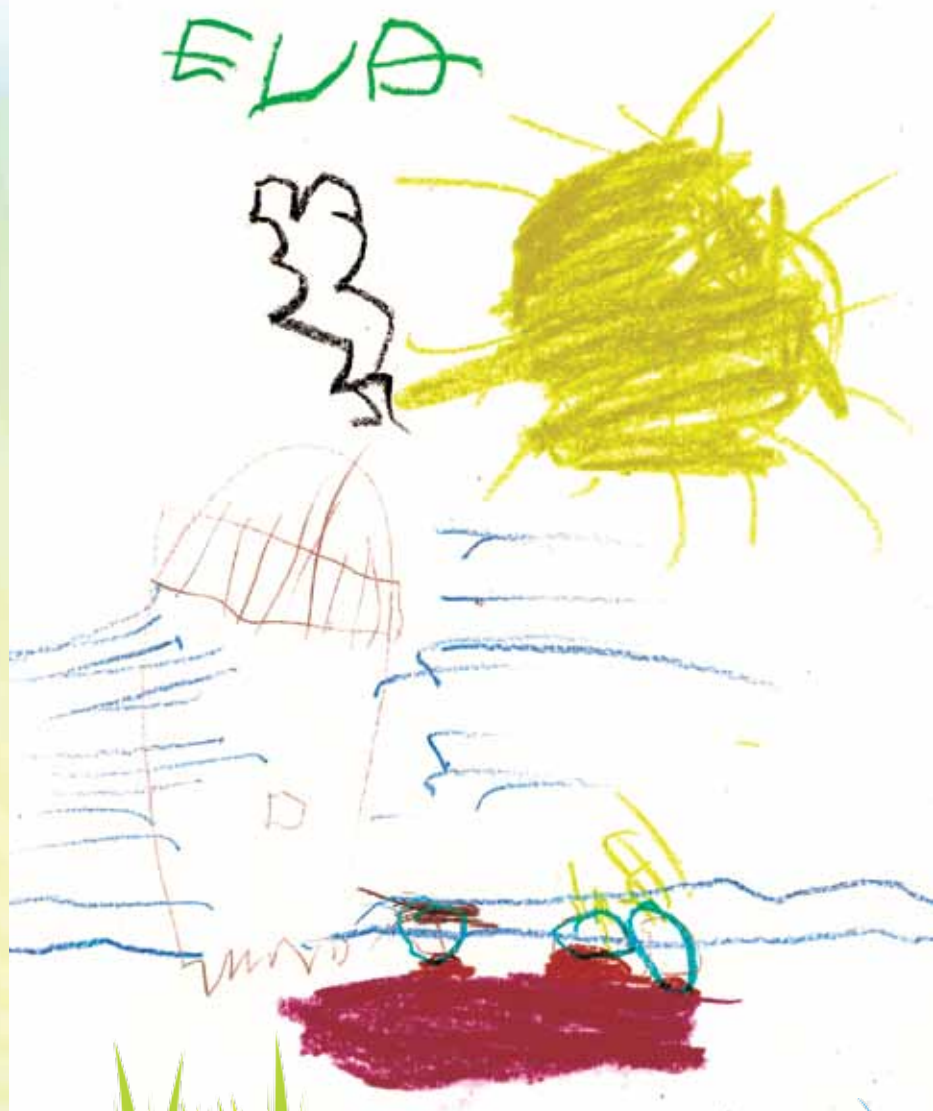
Finally they would get out in the boat. Their Daddy took them to the beach where they could see the lighthouse shining in the sun. All three of them put on their lifejackets and **pushed the boat out** onto the sea. Daddy lifted Eva, then Ruby into the boat before he jumped in himself. Then Daddy rowed the boat away from the shore.

It wasn't long before the beach became busy. Lots more boats and jet skis joined Eva, Ruby and their Daddy. Eva and Ruby waved at the other people in their boats and giggled when they waved back. Eva and Ruby took turns at dipping their hands into the cool sea and sang some songs. Cumulo was very happy that he had made their day. He smiled and floated off to another sea. **Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.**

Steve Young



Drawing by Eva Young, age 3



Gizmo



Cumulo Nimbus sees everything. Up high in the sky he looks down on all that's happening below him. What on earth will he see today?

Cumulo travels over the sleepy village of Richill. The sun is shining brightly and the sky is clear blue. He sees a little girl riding a horse in a field below. Cumulo likes horses and wishes he had one of his own.

He floats down from the sky to speak to the little girl. "Hello little girl" he says, "What's your name?" The little girl replies "My name is Eve and I love horse riding, I have been riding a horse since I was five years old". Cumulo stroked the horse's mane, "I think your horse is beautiful, what is his name?" "Gizmo" the little girl replied "And he a very good horse, he is tame and quiet".

Cumulo was pleased. With a whoosh, the little girl took off and trotted around and around the ring. This made Cumulo very happy. He had never seen a horse trotting before, up and down, up and down. This made Cumulo laugh. The little girl laughed too. They had so much fun. The clouds started to turn black, it's time for Cumulo to say good-bye and off he floated to see his next big adventure. Bye Bye Cumulo. See you soon.

Stephen Jones



Drawing by Eve Jones, age 6



Eve Jones Age six

It Really Does Fly!



Drawing by Latasha McCann, age 4





Blossom Sure Start

63 Park Road
PORTADOWN
BT62 1DS

Tel/Fax: 028 3833 7455

Email: [Surestart.Team@
southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Surestart.Team@southerntrust.hscni.net)

