

RUSSELL'S WORLD

A STORY FOR KIDS ABOUT AUTISM



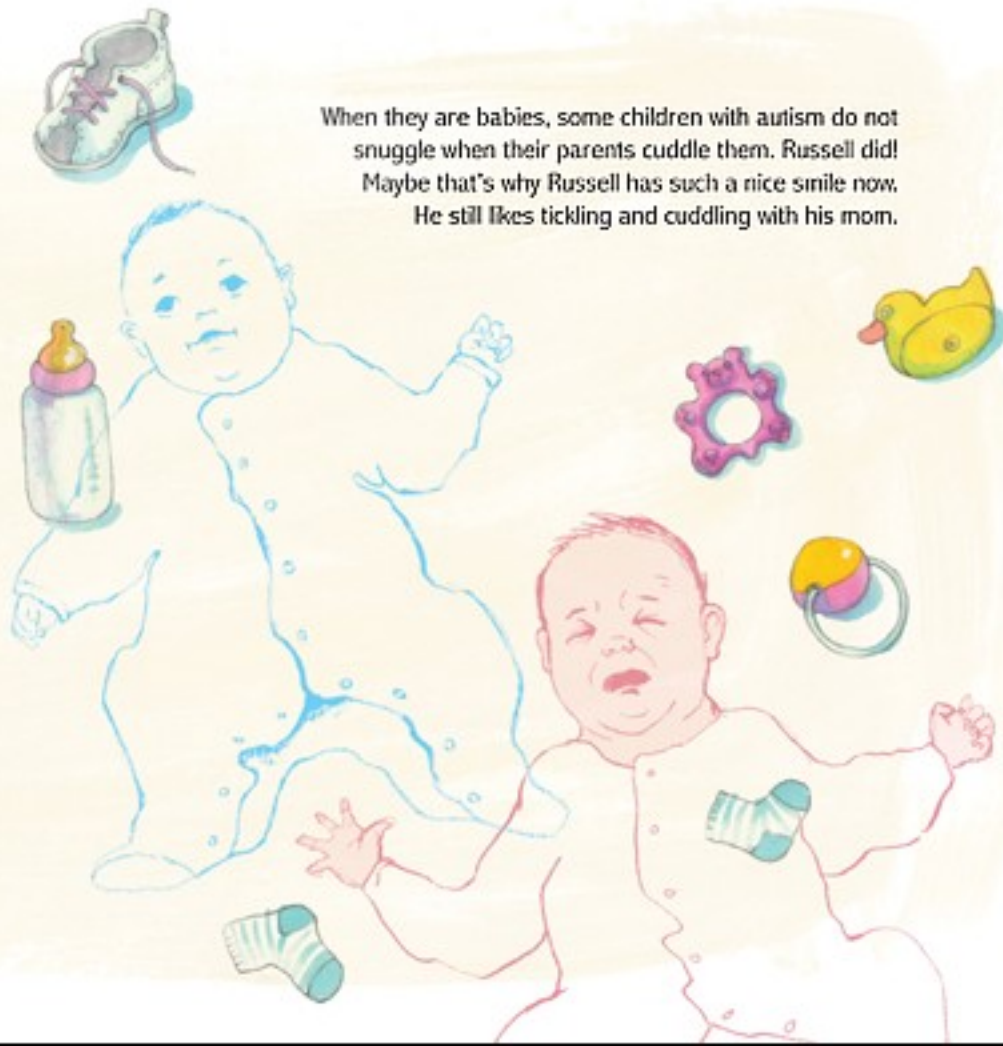
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ILLUSTRATED BY MONIKA POLLAK



Russell is nine. He has two younger brothers, Benjamin and Gregory. Benjamin and Gregory love Russell, and Russell loves them! They know he has autism, so they make extra sure that they help him when he wants their help and leave him alone when he doesn't. Sometimes they play together, and have lots of fun!



Gregory and Benjamin ask their dad why Russell has autism. Their dad is a doctor, but he doesn't know the answer. Nobody knows why some kids have autism, but scientists are trying to figure it out. They do think that most kids with autism were just born that way.




When they are babies, some children with autism do not snuggle when their parents cuddle them. Russell did! Maybe that's why Russell has such a nice smile now. He still likes tickling and cuddling with his mom.



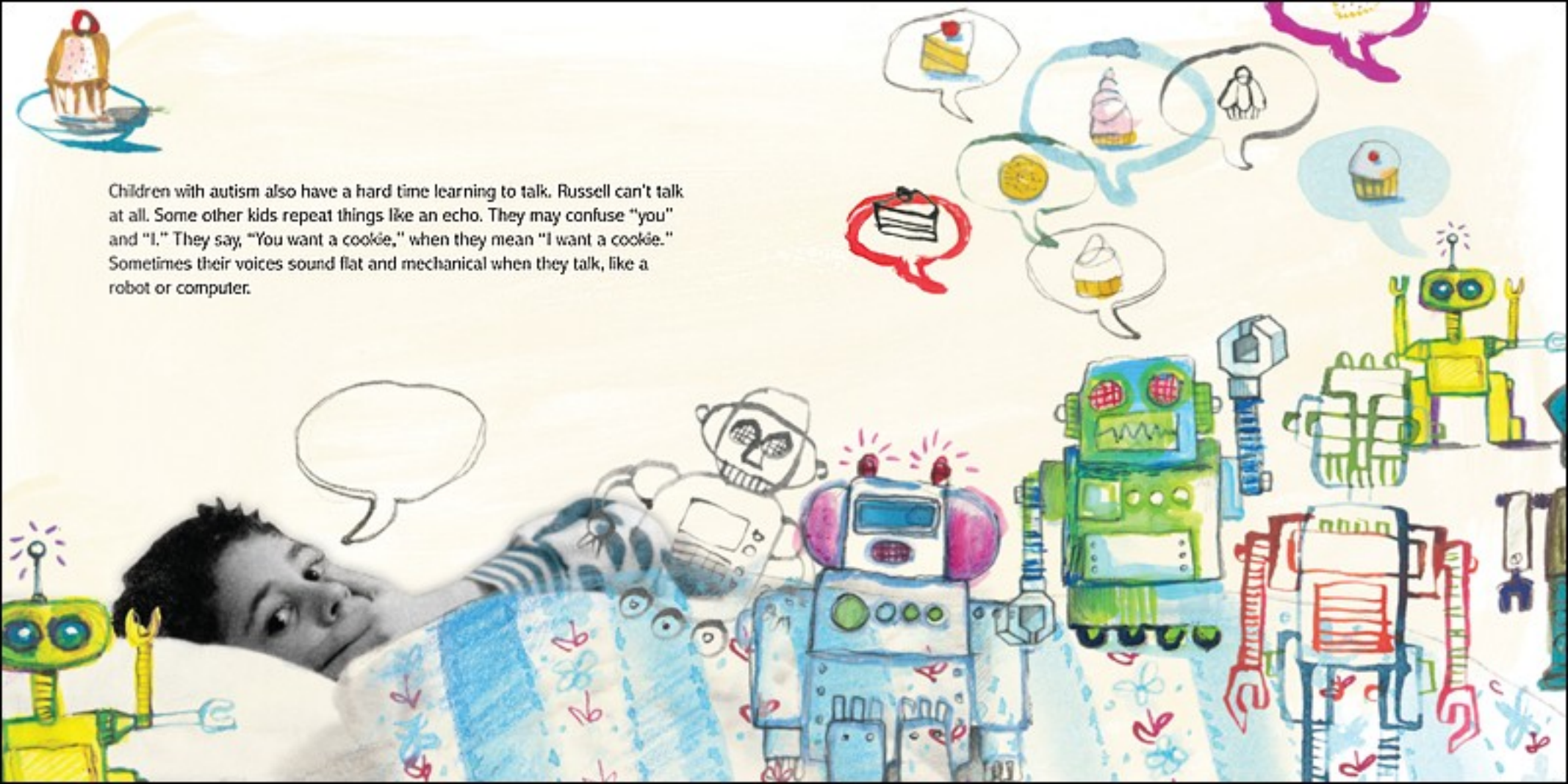
Gregory and Benjamin like to play with friends. Russell doesn't. He likes to be by himself. He goes far away or leaves the room when other kids come over.



All children with autism have difficulty making friends. As they get bigger, they usually become more OK being around other people.



Children with autism also have a hard time learning to talk. Russell can't talk at all. Some other kids repeat things like an echo. They may confuse "you" and "I." They say, "You want a cookie," when they mean "I want a cookie." Sometimes their voices sound flat and mechanical when they talk, like a robot or computer.



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Russell is a boy with autism. Russell is a boy with a great big smile and a family who loves him.

Step into **RUSSELL'S WORLD** for an inside look at a real-life family as they share their photos and stories. Kids can see just what Russell and his family experience as well as the surprises and challenges that can come with autism.

An extensive **NOTE TO PARENTS** offers concrete information about autism and gives parents tips about supporting children with autism and their siblings, getting services, and taking time for self-care.

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