



# Sofia and the Magic Words that Open Doors

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Sofia, a curious 4-year-old with big, bright eyes, loved painting, running, and cuddling her fluffy dog, Luna. But there was one thing she didn't do: she never said "good morning" or "goodbye." She was a quiet little wonder.



Every morning at preschool, Sofia would quietly slip into the classroom without a word. Her kind teacher, Mrs. Clara, would greet her warmly, "Good morning, Sofia!" but Sofia would only look down and walk to her seat, a silent little shadow.



It was the same at home; her grandma would say, "Hello, my princess!" Sofia would respond with a small gesture, a tiny wave or nod, but no words ever came out. Her gestures were her only language.



Gradually, things began to change. Some children stopped inviting Sofia to play, thinking she was angry or didn't want to be their friend. Sofia started to feel lonely during recess, watching others laugh and greet each other with joy.



Sofia's chest felt tight, like when she lost a favorite toy, as she longed to join the fun. She didn't understand why the other children were drifting away, but the quiet made her heart feel a little sad and squeezed.



One day, Mrs. Clara gathered everyone on the rug. "Today, we're going to talk about magic words," she said softly, holding up a sparkling box. The children's eyes widened with excitement, eager to hear more about these mysterious words.



Mrs. Clara explained, "These words open hearts! When we say 'good morning,' we're really saying, 'I'm happy to see you.' And 'goodbye' means, 'It was lovely sharing time with you.'" She looked gently at Sofia, adding, "Sometimes we don't greet people because we're shy, but not greeting can make others think we don't care." Sofia felt a blush creep up her cheeks, realizing she never wanted her friends to feel that way.



The teacher invited everyone to practice. "Look me in the eyes, smile, and say, 'Good morning.'" Sofia took a deep breath, then looked at her friend Ana. "G-good morning," she whispered shyly. Ana's face lit up with a huge smile, "Good morning, Sofia!" Something wonderful happened inside Sofia; the tightness in her chest vanished.



The very next day, Sofia bounded into the classroom and cheered, "Good morning, Mrs. Clara!" Her teacher opened her arms wide for a warm hug, "Good morning, Sofia! What a joy to hear you!" At recess, Sofia greeted two classmates, and they immediately invited her to play house with them.



Sofia also started saying goodbye. "Goodbye, Grandma. I love you!" Her grandma responded with the longest, warmest hug ever. Over time, Sofia discovered that small words do big things: they make friends, create smiles, and make her heart feel full and accompanied. From then on, Sofia carried her invisible bag of magic words, knowing that greeting isn't just speaking, it's opening a door for friendship to enter. ✨