



I Am Bright, I Am Brave

Alex Ngolle



Leo wakes up as the golden morning sun peeks through his curtains, feeling the warmth on his face. He stretches his arms wide and whispers to the morning, I am ready for a wonderful day.



In front of the bathroom mirror, Leo stands tall and gives himself a big, bright smile. He notices his messy hair and sparkling eyes, reminding himself that he is unique and special just the way he is.



At the breakfast table, Leo tries to pour his own milk, concentrating hard as the pitcher feels heavy. Even when a little bit spills, he stays calm and says, I am learning every day, and that is okay.



Leo sits on the floor struggling to tie his shoelaces into perfect loops. He takes a deep breath, tries one more time, and feels a surge of pride as the knot holds firm and steady.



Outside in the garden, Leo sees a tiny seedling pushing through the dark soil toward the light. He realizes that like the plant, he is growing stronger and taller with every passing moment.



At the playground, the tall, twisty slide looks a little bit scary from the bottom. Leo places his hand on the ladder and tells his heart, I am brave enough to try new things.



When Leo sees a classmate sitting alone on the bench, he walks over with a friendly wave. He shares his favorite red ball, knowing that his kindness has the power to make someone else's day brighter.



During art time, Leo accidentally knocks over a jar of blue paint, creating a large smudge on his paper. Instead of getting upset, he turns the smudge into a beautiful, crashing ocean wave.



Leo practices riding his bicycle, feeling the wind rush past his ears as he pedals. When he wobbles and has to put his feet down, he simply hops back on, believing in his ability to find his balance.



While building a magnificent castle out of wooden blocks, the whole tower suddenly tumbles down to the floor. Leo laughs at the clatter and starts building an even better tower, showing that he can always start again.



Leo finds a quiet spot under a big oak tree to listen to the rustling leaves and singing birds. In the stillness, he feels a deep sense of peace and knows that he is a valuable part of the wide world.



At the dinner table, Leo tries a bite of a new green vegetable he has never seen before. He discovers a new flavor and feels proud of his adventurous spirit and willingness to explore.



As the sun begins to set, casting pink and purple hues across the sky, Leo helps clear the table. He feels happy knowing that his small actions help his family and make his home a loving place.



Tucked snugly into his warm bed, Leo listens to a bedtime story while feeling safe and secure. He thinks about all the things he did well today and whispers, I am loved, and I am enough.



As Leo drifts off to sleep, he dreams of flying high among the stars and soft clouds. He rests deeply, knowing that tomorrow is a brand new adventure filled with endless possibilities for him to shine.