



# Lily Learns to Listen

Krishna Golla



The morning sun peeked through Lily's window, but Lily was deeply engrossed in drawing a magnificent purple unicorn. "Lily-bug, time to get ready for school!" Mom called from the kitchen, her voice cheerful. Lily pretended not to hear, adding glitter to her unicorn's horn.



Mom came into the room with a gentle smile, guiding Lily to the breakfast table. They were already a little behind schedule. Lily slowly ate her cereal, gazing out the window at a chirping bird, while Mom bustled around, packing her lunch.



They rushed out the door, just as the big yellow school bus rounded the corner and pulled away from the stop. Lily's eyes widened in disappointment, her backpack swinging. Mom sighed softly, knowing they had missed it.



As Mom drove Lily to school, she gently explained, "When we listen and get ready on time, our day flows so much better, sweetie." Lily sat quietly in her car seat, looking thoughtful, understanding that her choices had consequences.



After school, Lily was happily building a towering castle with colorful blocks. "Time to tidy up before snack, my little builder!" Mom announced. Lily mumbled, "Just five more minutes!" but remembered the morning and started putting blocks into their bin.



Mom joined in, making a game of putting the blocks away quickly. Soon, the room was neat and tidy. Lily felt a small wave of pride and skipped happily to the kitchen for her yummy apple slices, enjoying her clean space.



Later that evening, it was bedtime. "Books away, pajamas on!" Mom said, her voice soft. Lily wanted to read just one more page, but instead, she quickly stacked her books and wiggled into her cozy dinosaur pajamas.



Tucked snugly in bed, Lily beamed as Mom praised her for listening. "Because you were so quick, we have time for an extra-long, silly story!" Mom declared, and Lily giggled as her mom read about a mischievous badger.



The next morning, when Mom called, "Lily-bug, time to get ready!" Lily didn't hesitate. She popped out of bed with a cheerful "Coming!" and started choosing her clothes with a bright smile, remembering the fun extra story.



Lily was ready with plenty of time to spare, enjoying a relaxed breakfast with Mom. She skipped out to the bus stop, waving goodbye as she climbed aboard the big yellow bus, feeling proud and happy for a wonderful, smooth start to her day.