



Leo's Gentle Paws

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Leo the little lion cub loves to play on the sunny savanna playground with all of his animal friends. He has big, strong paws and lots of exciting energy, but sometimes he forgets how big he is. Today, he is eager to join the fun, bouncing up and down with a giant smile.



When the playground bell rings, Leo rushes over to the sandbox where Ellie the elephant is building a beautiful sandcastle. In his excitement to join, Leo reaches out too quickly and accidentally knocks over the tall towers. Ellie looks down at her ruined castle, feeling very sad and startled.



Leo sees Ellie's sad face and realizes that his big, fast paws hurt his friend's feelings. His mother kneels down beside him and gently explains that our hands are for helping and hugging, not for crashing. She reminds him that using soft, slow movements keeps everyone safe and happy.



Taking a deep, calm breath, Leo decides to try again using his brand new superpower: gentle hands. He slowly walks up to Ellie, sits down quietly, and offers to help rebuild the castle walls. Together, using soft taps and careful pats, they make the sandcastle even bigger than before.



Later by the tall green swings, Toby the turtle is taking a turn swinging high into the sky. Leo wants a turn very badly, but instead of pushing or crowding, he stands back and waits patiently. He uses his voice to ask nicely, showing respect for his friend's space.



When it is finally Leo's turn, Toby steps aside with a smile. Leo carefully climbs onto the swing, and instead of grabbing roughly, he holds the chains with a soft grip. He realizes that being gentle applies to both his friends and the toys they share.



During snack time under the shady baobab tree, Pip the monkey accidentally drops his delicious banana slice. Instead of snatching it away or teasing, Leo uses his gentle paws to carefully pick it up and hand it back to Pip. Pip beams with joy and thanks Leo for being so incredibly kind.



Suddenly, a game of tag starts on the soft grass, and everyone is running and giggling. Leo runs fast, but when he reaches out to tag Toby, he remembers to use a light, soft tap instead of a hard push. Toby giggles and keeps running, feeling completely safe playing with Leo.



As the afternoon sun begins to set, all the little animals gather around in a big, cozy circle to share a story. Leo sits closely next to Ellie and Pip, carefully keeping his hands and feet to himself so everyone has plenty of room to relax. His friends feel happy and comfortable sitting right by his side.



The day ends with a big, warm group hug under the beautiful golden sky. Leo feels so proud of himself for choosing kindness and using his gentle paws all day long. He knows that being a good friend is the best feeling in the entire world.