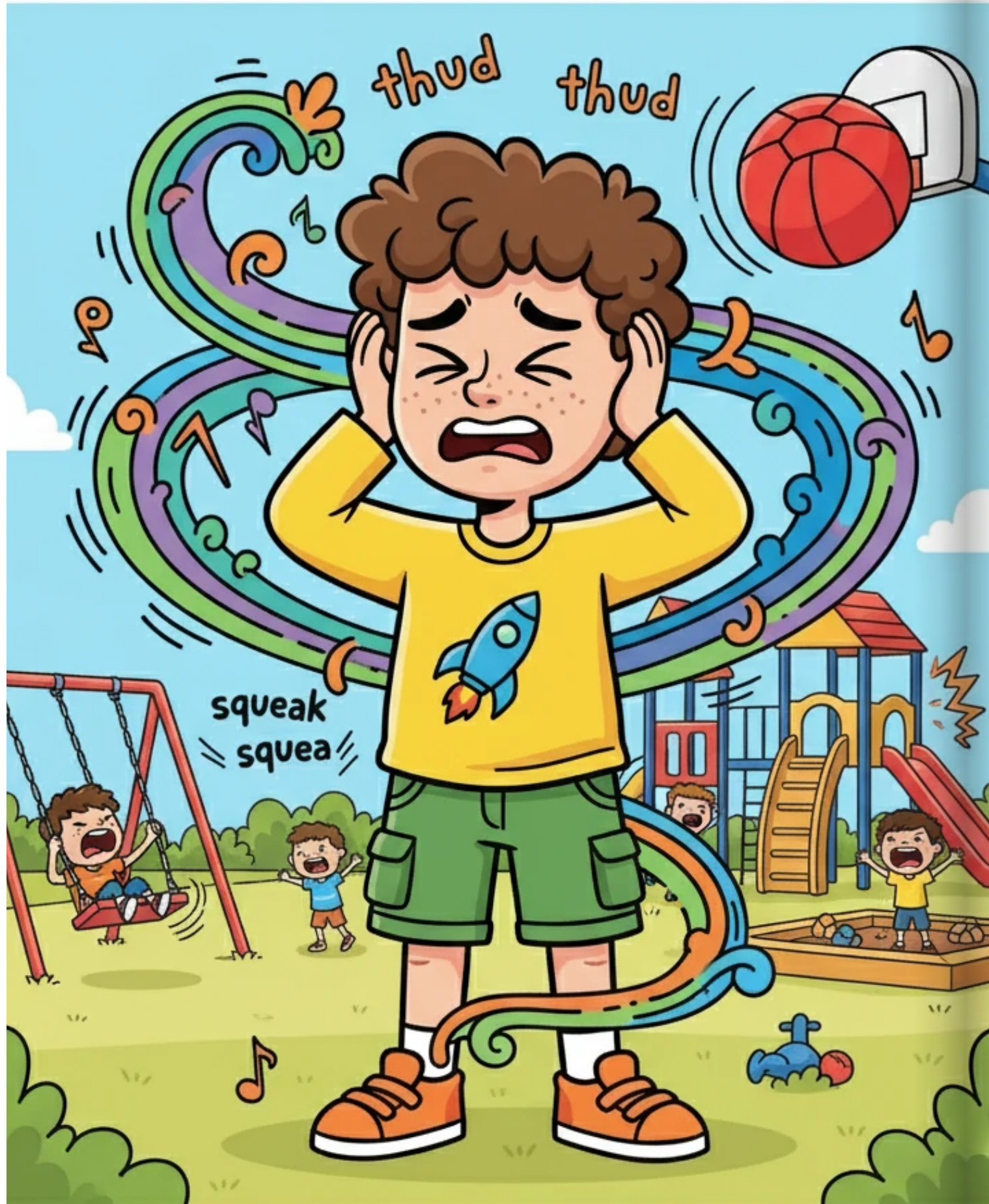




Liam's Loud World

by Jamelah



Liam loved the playground, but sometimes it felt like too much. The swings squeaked, kids shouted, and balls bounced with booming thuds. He squeezed his eyes shut and covered his ears, wishing the noise would stop.



The bright sun shone on the busy playground. Children ran and laughed, their voices blending into a chorus. Liam stood near the edge, overwhelmed by the cacophony, shrinking back from the joyful chaos.



Liam put his hands over his ears, his face scrunched up with a mixture of fear and sadness. Tears welled in his eyes as he tried to block out the sounds surrounding him. The vibrant playground colors blurred around the edges of his vision.



Mia, seeing Liam's distress, knelt beside him, her brow furrowed with concern. She gently reached out a hand, unsure of how to help. Her eyes showed she cared and wanted to understand what was wrong.



Mia asked gently, "What would help, Liam?" Liam peeked through his fingers. "Maybe we can play on the quiet swings." Mia nodded. "Let's go!"



Side-by-side, Liam and Mia swung slowly on the quiet swings. The world seemed calmer, and a small smile returned to Liam's face. In the distance, the loud playground noises faded as they found their peaceful space.