



Rafael's Big Day

by Marta de Sousa Gonçalves



Rafael loved his pacifier. It was his best friend, always there to comfort him. He brought it everywhere, from the playground to the dinner table. Even at bedtime, it was essential for a good night's sleep.



One sunny morning, Rafael's mom told him, "Today is a big day, Rafael!" Rafael looked at his pacifier and then at his mom. He wondered what the big day could possibly be.



They went to the park, and Rafael saw all the other children playing happily. Some had toys, some had friends, and none had a pacifier. Rafael thought about all the fun he could have without it.



Back home, Rafael's mom read him a story about a brave little bear who learned to be independent. Rafael listened intently, imagining himself as that brave bear. That night, Rafael put his pacifier in a special box.



Rafael felt a little sad at first, but then he remembered the fun he had at the park. He snuggled with his favorite stuffed animal instead. He closed his eyes and drifted off to sleep.



The next morning, Rafael woke up feeling proud and happy. He had done it! He smiled, knowing he could do anything. His big day had arrived, and he was ready for new adventures.