



# WEEK 2

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

# BRAVE

BY EUGENIA LEE

### HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

#### ACTIVITY | No Missing Pieces

Assembling the puzzle as a team is perfect social skills activity to practice turn-taking. Sit in a circle and have students take turns, one by one. Turn-taking requires lots of practice for many students who need specific instructions in social skills. If the puzzle is a hard activity for a student, you may need to accommodate the difficulty level of the puzzle, for example, instead of 20 pieces, you may need to make 8-piece puzzle for the student. You may number each piece in the back so the students can check themselves for accuracy.

#### OBJECT LESSON | Digging for Stones


This is an excellent opportunity to provide students with extra sensory input. Some of our students seek sensory sensations; taste, smell, tactile, auditory, vision. You may provide more sensory input by having different materials ready. Examples are shaving cream, dry rice, flour, sand, water, bubble water, and so on.

#### ACTIVITY | Strengths Blessings

Be mindful that our students with disabilities often feel that they are not good at many things. In choosing the "strengths" words for our students, try to affirm on characteristics that the Bible values along with their skills.

- You have so much love!
- You are so kind!



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- Your smile makes me happy!
  - You never give up!
  - Your praise gives me peace!
  - Your eyes sparkle when you hear Bible lesson!
  - I pray that God blesses all of us with God's eyes to see the strengths that God created them within our students with special needs.



# WEEK 2

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

# BRAVE

### BIG IDEA

God can use my gifts.

### THE BIBLE

**David and Goliath:** 1 Samuel 17;  
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

### MUSIC | Brave

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time in worship with your kids! You can choose any song but you might want to check out "[Brave](#)" by Saddleback Kids.

### ACTIVITY | Put Your Gifts to Work

- Welcome to the second week of our Brave series! For the next few weeks, we'll learn about what it means to be brave.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a numbered sticker. Instruct them to sit by the gift bag that corresponds with their number. On your signal, tell them to open their bag and retrieve their "gift." Then, encourage the kids to work together to assemble their puzzle.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Practice turn-taking for this activity, by having kids place their piece one by one. You could also adjust the difficulty level of the puzzle by selecting puzzles with less pieces, or numbering the back of each piece.
- Sometimes our "gifts" are something we have to put to work. Learning to use our gifts well is another step closer to being brave!

### ACTIVITY | Target Practice

- In our Bible story today, we'll see that our hero had to have a very precise throw to take down his target. Let's practice our beanbag tossing skills and try to hit the target, which is at the center of the circle.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a beanbag toss game or create your own using hula hoops of various sizes. Assign each circle a point value. Give each kid five beanbags and allow them to toss them, aiming for the bullseye. Keep track of points, if you'd like, allowing each kid to have a turn.

### QUESTION | Your Favorite Gift

- **What is the best gift you've ever received?**
- **Who gave it to you?**
- **Why was that your favorite gift?**
- Most of us have received a gift that seems like the best gift ever, but today we'll learn how God gives us gifts and helps us use those gifts.

### THE BIG IDEA | God can use my gifts.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea on a piece of paper and put it in a box and gift wrap it (bonus if you make it a really big box!). Have a kid – or a group of kids working together – unwrap the box and read the Big Idea.
- God can help us use our gifts...and we're not talking about gifts like a Lego roller coaster set or ultimate slime kit. We mean the ways God made us gifted- or good at stuff. God gave us each some special skills and things we are really good at.
- This week's Big Idea: **God can use my gifts.**

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### VIDEO | Brave, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

### SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 17:3-11, 16-25, 32-50

- Last week, we learned God chose David to be king of Israel. God instructed a man named Samuel to go to David's father's house and wait until God told Samuel who was the right son to do the job. God told Samuel that David was the one and Samuel anointed him. We were reminded that God knows who we are. Today, we'll discover that God can use our gifts.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- Wow! What a story! So much is going here. . . let's break it down.
  - **What two groups were at war with each other?**
  - **What was the challenge Goliath issued to the Israelites?**
  - **Imagine being in the Israelite army. What might they have been thinking when they first saw Goliath?**
- All of us face situations where there seems to be a giant obstacle in our way. Those kind of situations can be very scary, but God never leaves us. God helps us to fight those obstacles just like God helped David fight the giant, Goliath. So, let's continue. . .
  - **Who volunteered to fight Goliath?**
  - **What did he use?**

- Who won the battle?
- Who helped him win the battle?
- When we fight battles in front of us, we are never alone and God gives us just what we need.

### OBJECT LESSON | Digging for Stones

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a kid to come up to the front of the group. Ask the kid if they remember what David used to defeat Goliath (five stones and a slingshot). Tell the kid they will be given five stones, too, but they have to dig them out of a bowl filled with an unknown substance. Blindfold the kid and place their hand in a bowl of prepared whipped cream, which is covering the five stones. Tell them to pull out the stones one at a time. Give the kid wipes to clean their hands.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If possible, provide more sensory input by having different materials ready. Examples are shaving cream, dry rice, flour, sand, water, bubble water, and so on.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Place five stones in a few more bins with other substances (like slime, shaving cream, gel, pasta sauce, etc.) and invite a few preteens to participate.
- David was gifted with his sling and stones from his experience as a shepherd. We all have gifts that are useful, too, and sometimes we have to dig deep down to discover what they are!

### VIDEO | You Make Me Brave

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids [this video](#), “You Make Me Brave” by Bethel Kids.
- What stood out to you in this video?
- What does it mean to you that God is for you and not against you?

### SCRIPTURE | 1 Peter 4:10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- This verse tells us to use the gifts we have to share with others.
- **Why do you think our gifts should be used in that way?**
- **What might happen if we don't use our gifts to serve others?**
- Each of us is unique and has special gifts given to us by God to not only use to benefit ourselves, but to bless and serve others. David used his special gifts to help an entire army and a group of people be safe.

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### REFLECTION | Scary or Nah

- Sometimes, we face situations that can be a little scary, but what's scary for me might not be scary for you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the different scenarios (feel free to add your own!) and encourage the kids to respond to each of them by making a frightened expression if they think it's scary, or saying “nah” if it's not scary to them.
  - Scary movies or TV shows (feel free to name a specific one here)

- Being around an animal with big, sharp teeth
- Going to a new school
- Violent video games
- Thunderstorms
- Everyone gets scared at one time or another, but God gives us just what we need to be brave.

### RESPONSE | Slaying My Giants - Part 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct the kids to take a stone and a permanent marker. Tell them to write an area they need courage in on the stone. Tell them to hold their stone and pray silently, asking God to give them courage in this way.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Ask: How might the gifts that God has given you help you have courage in these situations? Or how might God use the gifts of others, like your parents or friends to help you in these situations, like David helped his people?*

### ACTIVITY | Slaying My Giants - Part 2

- We discovered in our Bible story how David was brave to fight the giant, Goliath. We, too, can be brave when we face big obstacles in front of us. God is always with us. As our creator, God knows us and helps us use the gifts given to each of us. Nothing is too big for God - or for us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the "Slaying My Giants" printable, piece it together, and tape it to the floor. Or you can make your own large Goliath out of butcher paper. Then, call the kids up and allow them to gently toss their stones from the previous activity at the paper Goliath.*

### MEMORY VERSE | Hopscotch

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the memory verse printables and arrange them into a [hopscotch grid](#). The first kid should toss the stone to the first box, and play hopscotch as usual. They pass the stone to the next kid, who tosses the stone into the next box, so on and so forth. ([Here's](#) a refresher on how to play hopscotch!) If you have a large group, you can print multiple copies and have a few games going on at once. (You may also choose to have kids remove their shoes so the paper doesn't rip too easily, or laminate the paper, or reinforce with clear packing tape.)*

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- Why do you think Goliath thought the Philistine army was better than the Israelite army?
- What types of tools did David choose not to use to fight Goliath?
- Why was David confident he could defeat Goliath?
- Reread 1 Samuel 17:45-47. Who did David absolutely make clear was on his side?
- Why does God give us gifts?
- How can you use your gifts to serve God?
- How can you use your gifts to serve others?

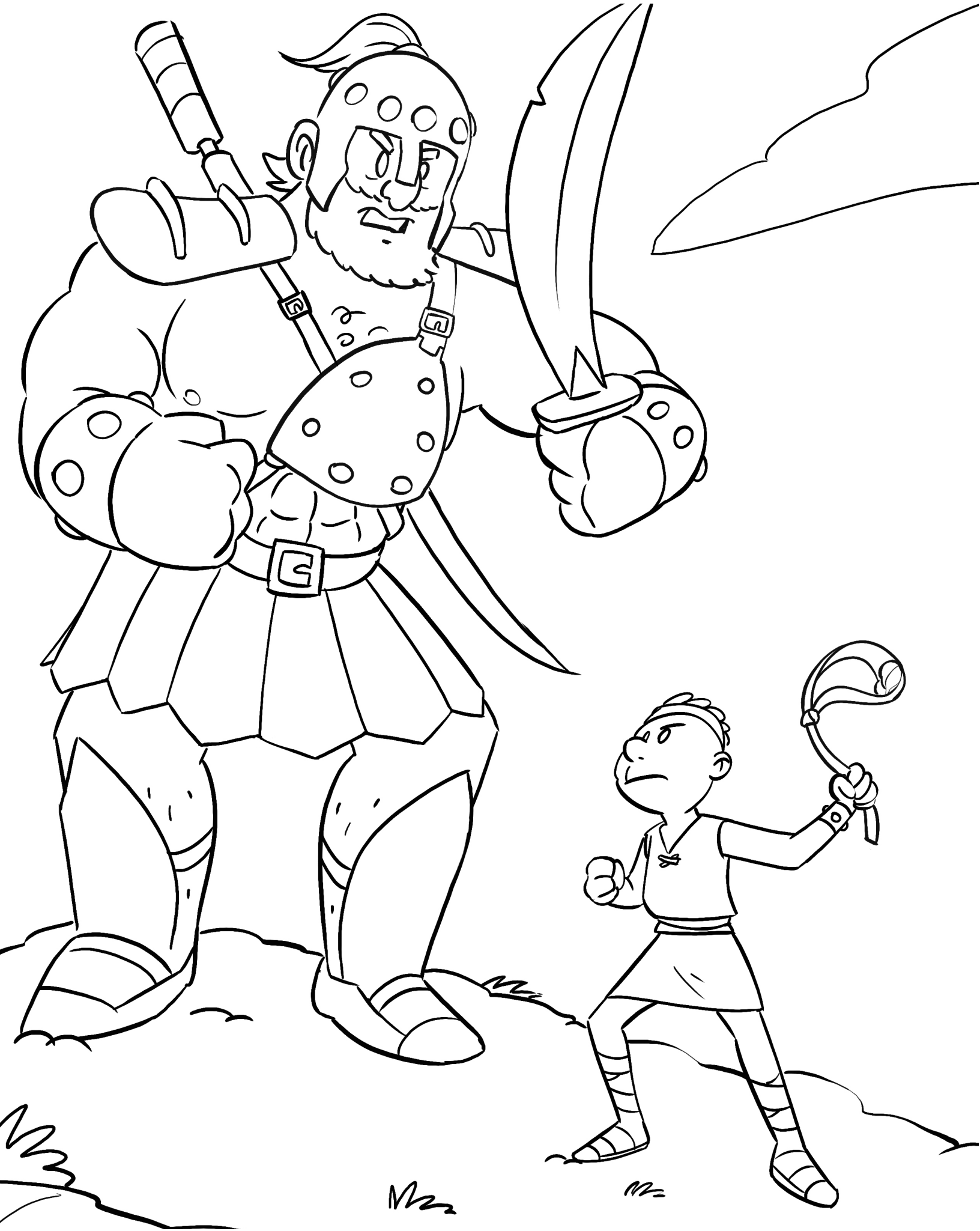
**ACTIVITY | Strengths Blessings**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare the strengths printable, and spread the cards on the floor. On your signal, instruct the kids to stand by the card that represents something they're good at. Encourage them to share how being good at that particular thing can bless someone else. Then, tell them to switch again and repeat the activity as time allows.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Be mindful of kids with disabilities that might feel they don't have many strengths. You can focus on traits by affirming them with words like: You have so much love! / You are so kind! / Your smile makes me happy! / You never give up! / Your praise gives me peace! / Your eyes sparkle when you hear Bible lesson!

**MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.





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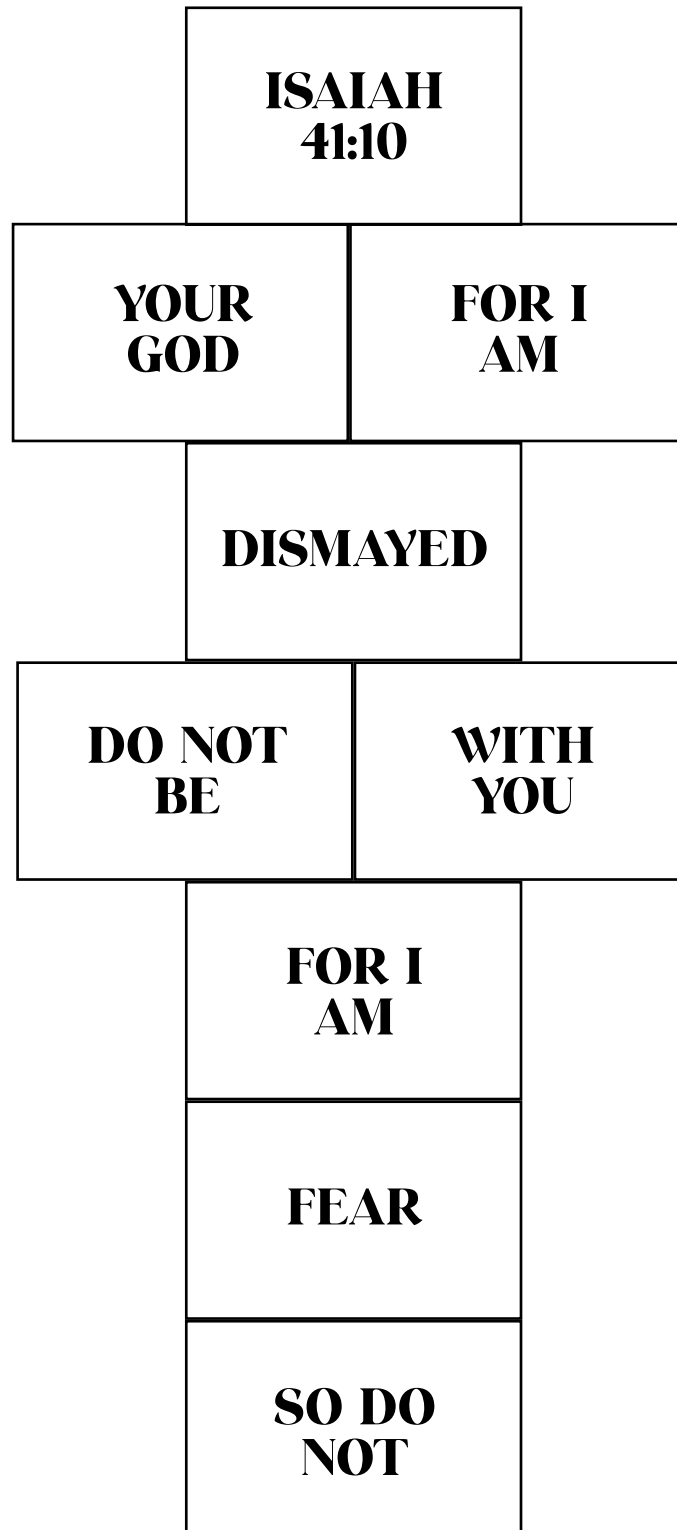
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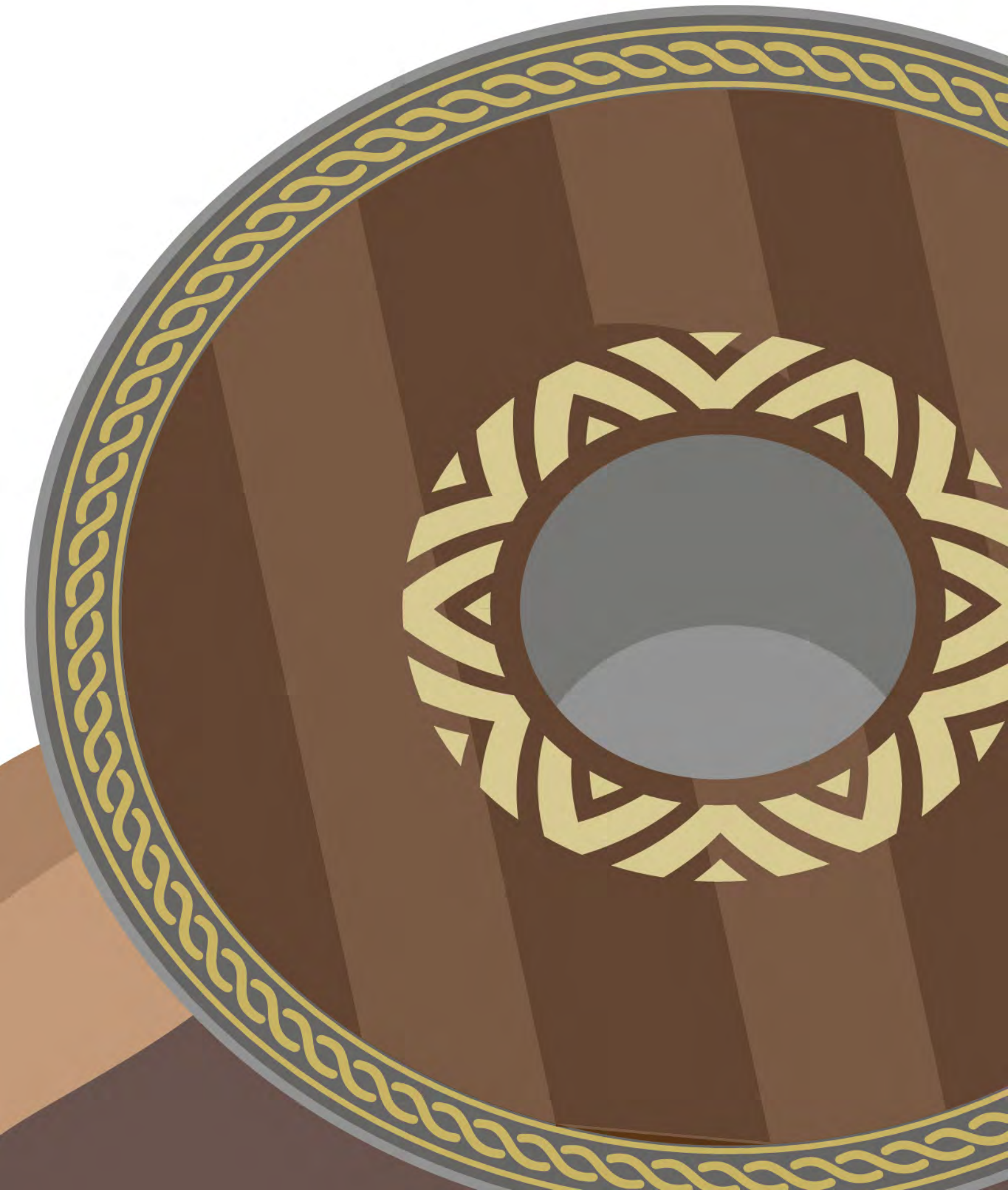
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# ISAIAH 41:10





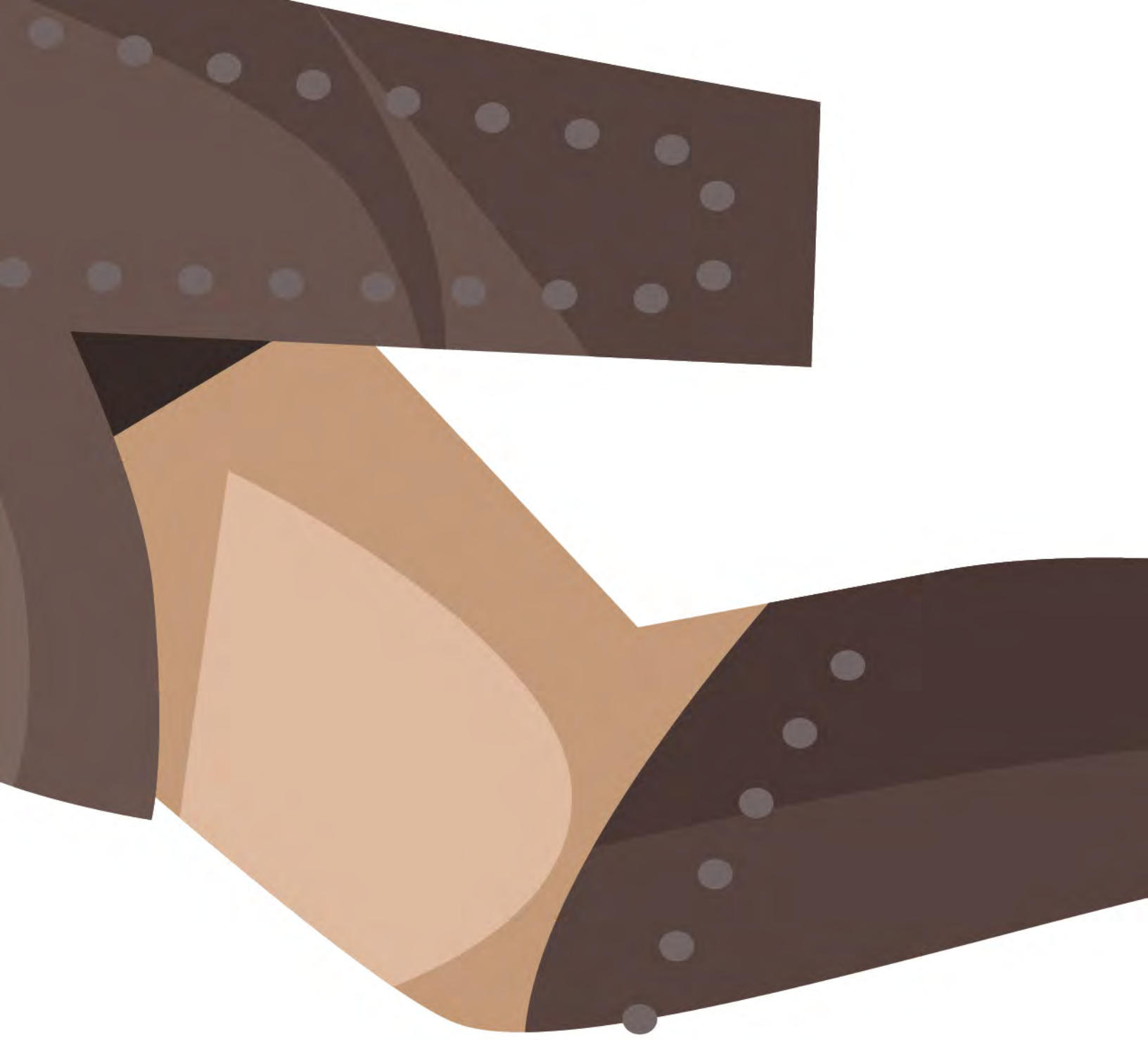






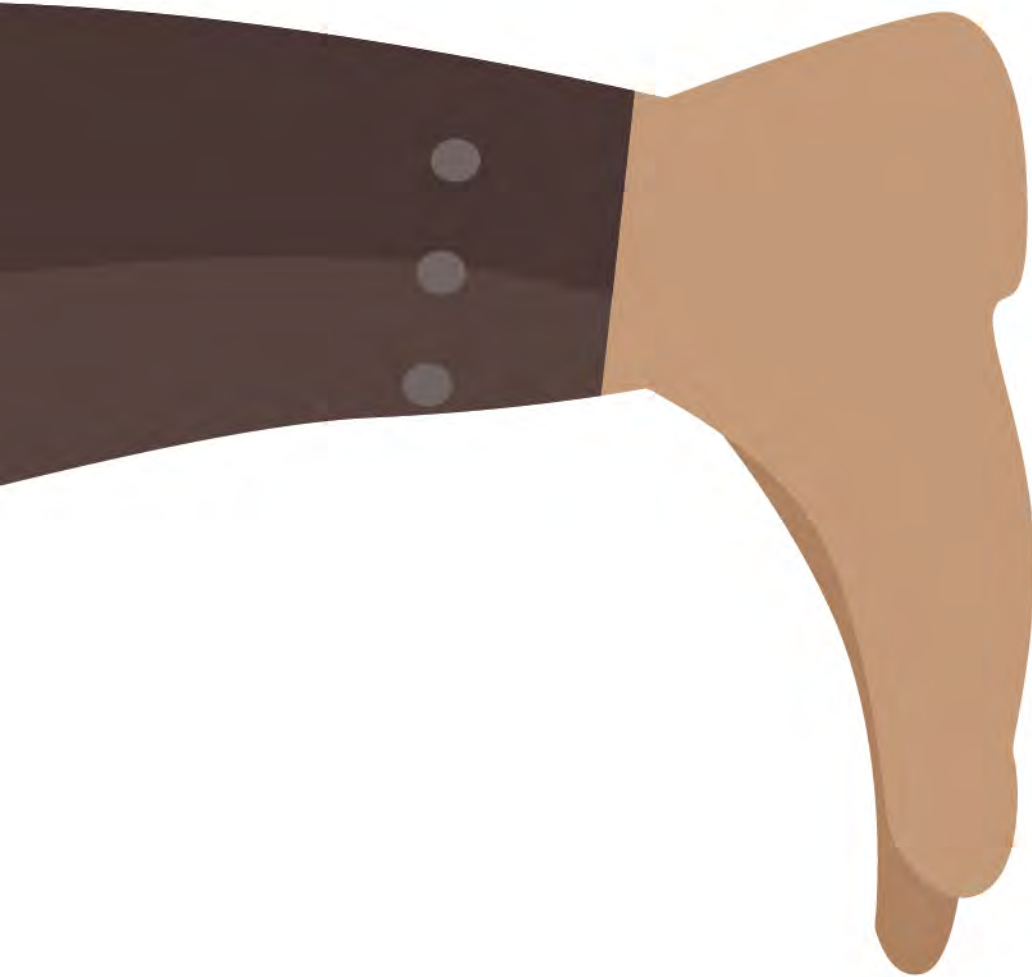


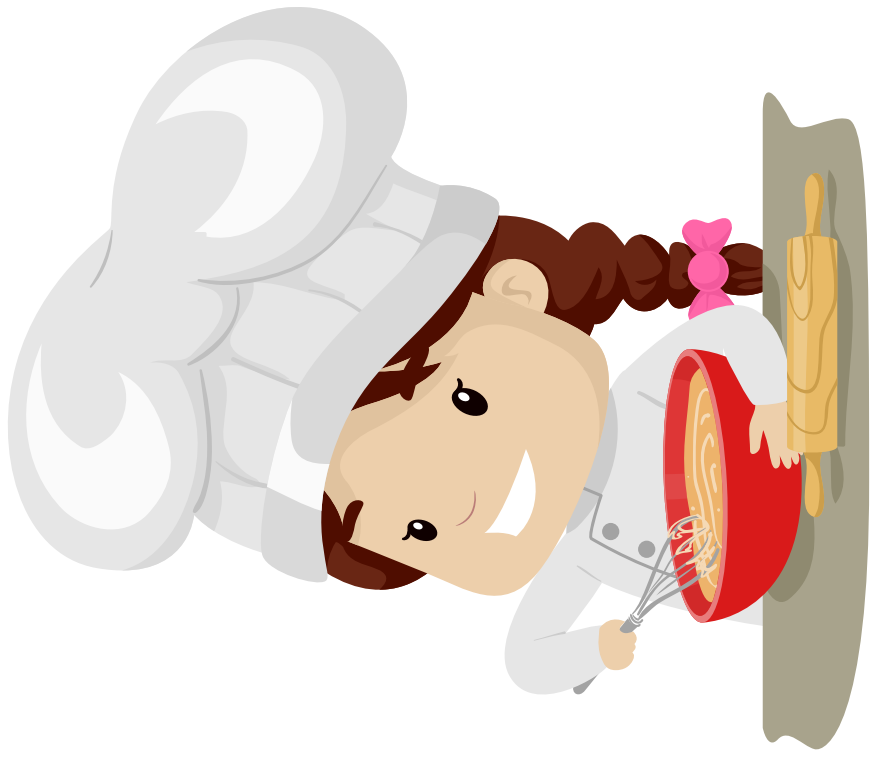












# Baking/ Cooking



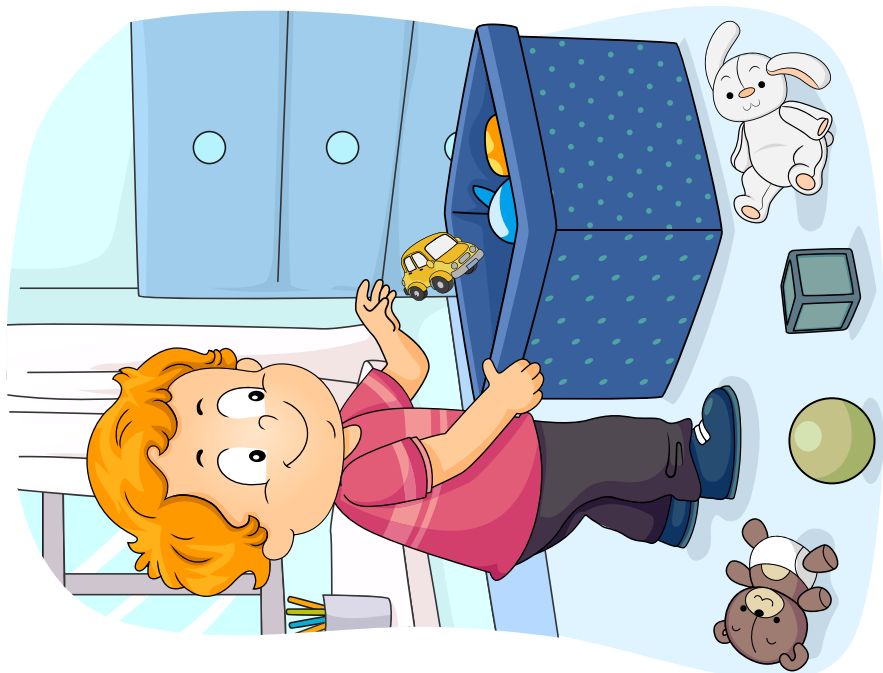
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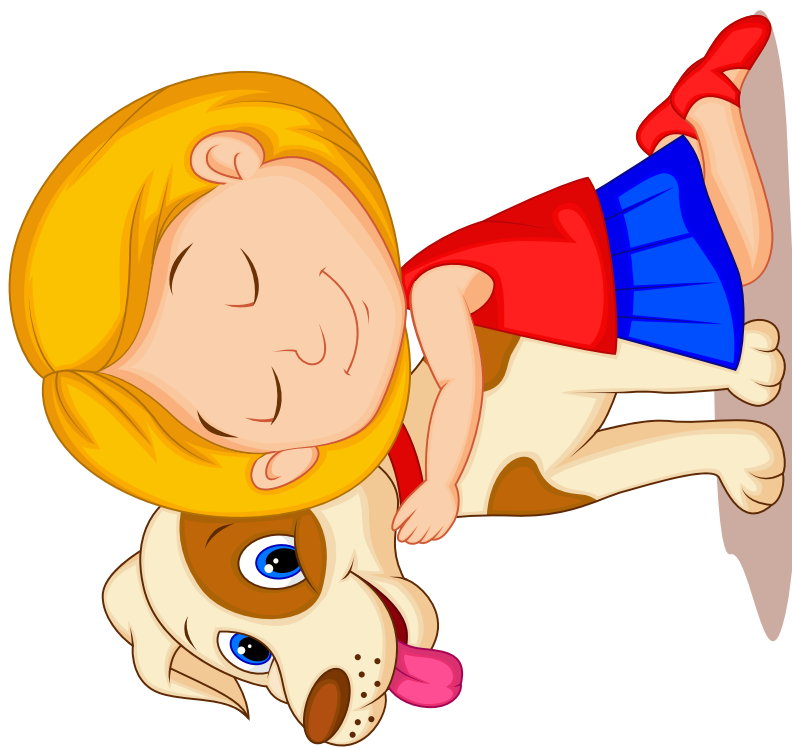
# Playing an Instrument



# Drawing/ Arts & Crafts



# Cleaning/ Organizing



# Caring for Animals