

# Eli's Button

A picture book for Reception classes



It was Eli's first day  
at his big new  
school.

He had shiny black  
shoes and a book  
bag too.

He had a new jumper,  
a coat hook with his  
name, he was  
excited.

All the others felt  
the same!



In the morning, the  
children sat down  
for a story on the  
mat,

When Mia said, "Eli,  
what is THAT?"

"That's my button,"  
said Eli. "It's how I  
get fed."

"Oh, okay!" said Mia,  
and she nodded her  
head.



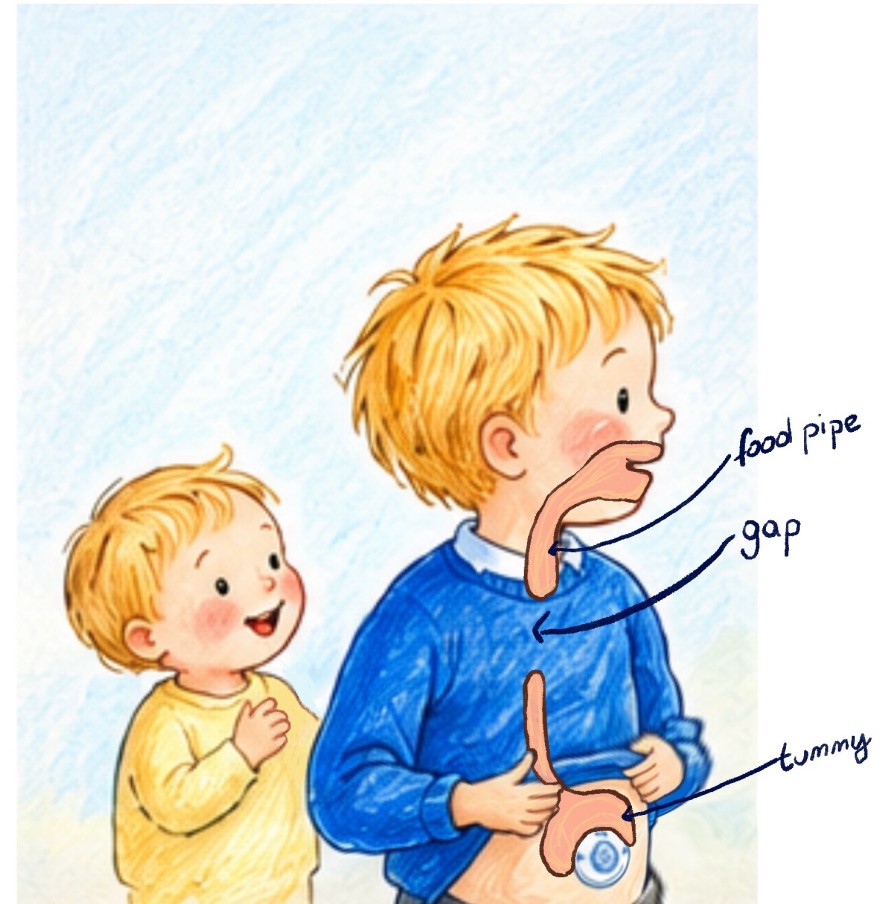
You've all got a  
food pipe that goes  
down inside,

From your mouth to  
your tummy,  
a slippery slide!

But when I was born,  
and was tiny and  
new,

My food pipe had a  
gap in the middle.

It's true!"



"So a team of kind  
doctors, and nurses  
so sweet,

Did a special  
operation to help me  
to eat.

I was tiny, but  
mighty, and brave as  
could be,

And that tiny brave  
baby grew up into  
me!"



But my food pipe is bumpy  
and narrow and tight,

So sometimes my food  
doesn't go down just right.

That's why I've got a button,  
a special small door,

That goes straight to my  
tummy. That's what it's for!

I can nibble and taste  
things, crunch and munch,

But my button does most of  
my breakfast and lunch."



Does it hurt?"

asked Priya, with worry  
and care.

"Not a bit!"  
Eli laughed.

"I forget that it's there!"



Can I touch it?" asked Jack, stretching out a small hand.

"Please don't," said Eli, "but I understand.

My button must stay where it is, snug and tight, so no pulling or poking, and then it's all right!"



At lunchtime the  
class walked along  
to the hall.  
"It's spaghetti today,  
the best dinner of  
all!"

Eli twirled a small  
forkful and gave it  
a slurp.

Then his friends all  
slurped too... and  
then somebody  
BURPED!



Then a grown-up  
from class came to  
sit by him too,

With the tube and  
syringe, and they  
knew what to do.

Click! on the tube,  
and a gentle push

In goes his milk  
with a soft little  
whoosh!



After lunch, on the  
playground, the  
children all ran.

"Can you catch us?"  
called Ruby. Said  
Eli, "I can!"

"He was quick as a  
rocket and strong as  
a bear,

He climbed to the  
top, and he waved  
from up there!



Some children wear  
glasses, and some  
children don't.

Some like to sing  
loudly, and some  
children won't.

Some eat with a  
fork, and some eat  
with a spoon,

And some have milk  
through a button  
like Eli at noon!



At home time,  
mommy and daddy  
asked,

"So, how was your  
day?"

"I was brave and I  
tried things, and I  
got to play!"



Today was a  
wonderful day.

