



Little bear boy Barney likes to wrestle with his sister Millie.



BARNEY BEAR'S AUTUMN WALK

- Jane Trygg-Kaipainen -

The Bear family lived in a fairly big Livelyville town. Many other animal families lived there, too, and everything in the town was as well as could possibly be.

Daddy Bear drove the car to work. He drove long distances every day and was gone from early morning to late at night. Mommy Bear stayed at home with the kids: lively boy bear Barney and little baby Millie.

On a somewhat rainy fall day Barney was bored. He very much wanted to go and say hello to his grandmother who lived close by. But Mommy Bear didn't think it was a good idea.

- Barney darling, Mommy Bear said, you can't go today. I can't leave Millie and come with you. Millie is taking a nap right now.

Barney didn't give up so easily. He wanted to take a little walk and said: - But Mom-

my! Grandma lives close by. Mommy please, why can't I go?

At that moment Millie woke up; she was starting to be hungry. Mommy Bear went to Millie, picked her up and said to Barney:

- Well, go on then. Grandma lives just across the street. You have to be very careful and use the zebra crossing when crossing the street. Remember that the road can be dangerous. Where is your reflector?

And Barney replied:

- Mommy! I promise to be careful. I'll use the zebra crossing. And you have sewed a reflector to my jacket.

Mommy Bear reminded Barney one more time about the dangers of crossing the street. Unfortunately, all drivers do not stop in front of the zebra crossing even though they should. When Barney was leaving,



Mommy Bear called after him:

- Barney! Choose a safe spot for crossing the street! Stop, look and listen. Then wait and look once more. When you are sure that there is no traffic, then cross the street!

- Safe spot. Stop, look and listen. Wait and look once more. When there's no traffic, then I'll cross the street. Bye! said Barney to Mommy Bear.

When Barney closed the front door, Uncle Moose was driving to town. He had an important meeting and he was very much in his thoughts. He looked at his watch and saw that he was running a little late. Uncle Moose was mumbling to himself:

- Terrible weather! The car windows are all fogged up.

Uncle Moose started to wipe the fog off the windows and accidentally stepped on the accelerator.

Barney was approaching the zebra crossing. He remembered what Mommy Bear had told him: - I'm being careful. Here is a safe spot. I'll stop, look and listen. Then I'll wait and look once more. When I'm sure there's no traffic, I'll cross the street!

Barney was feeling so good that he started singing to himself.

The car was also approaching the zebra crossing. Uncle Moose was still wiping the windows and did not see Barney who was standing next to the zebra crossing, still singing.

Barney was about to take another step when he heard a familiar voice behind him:

- Barney! Stop! Watch out for the car!

Barney was startled but he stopped and turned around. He saw Grandma with two bags. Grandma had been to the store to buy groceries.



Mommy bear reminded her son that crossing the street can be dangerous.

Suddenly Uncle Moose drove by them and thought to himself:

- Oops! Lucky thing no one was on the zebra crossing. Now the windows are dry and I'm able to see the road properly again.

And he drove on happily.

Barney, who was still frightened after his narrow escape, took hold of Grandma's bag and said:

- I wanted to come and see you. It was so good you saw me. Things could have ended badly.

And Grandma said:

- Yes, it was good I saw you. But I won't always be there. You have to remember to look and also listen whether there are cars coming. If you don't see or hear anything, only then can you cross the street.

- I did look, said Barney, but I was so happy that I started to sing. I forgot to listen and then the car was right there at the zebra crossing.

- Well, next time be sure to listen carefully! Look, we are almost at my house. Thank you, Barney, for carrying my bag. Why don't I give you some juice and ice cream, said Grandma.





The Foxfield children Fiona, Frida and Felix in the middle of winter fun photographed by Vanessa Wolf.



WINTER FUN

- Jane Trygg-Kaipainen -

Many animal families lived in the town of Livelyville. Life in the town was peaceful, and everything was as well as could possibly be. But one day the residents of Livelyville read a story about the winter activities of fox cubs on the town's newspaper Animal Times.

Vanessa Wolf was a reporter and she was about to interview the people of Livelyville. She wanted to know what they did during the winter. Vanessa Wolf waited a long time with her camera and notepad, but the Bear family, the Miss Hedgehogs or the Frog clan were nowhere to be seen. Many members of the large Bird family had gone overseas. And so Vanessa Wolf decided to photograph and interview any children she might meet.

The reporter noticed all three children of the Foxfield family. They were running around and chasing each other happily and noisily on a walkway. They had sleds and short skis with them. They were about to have fun in the beautiful snow that had just come down. But where would they go? The

best and also the safest place for all sorts of winter fun was too far away.

Vanessa Wolf took a few photographs and followed Fiona, Frida and Felix. This would become a long story with lots of fun pictures, she thought. But suddenly she froze. Oh, no! The Foxfield children were ready to slide down a hill on a sled. But the hill they had chosen was a big pile of snow next to a road. Therefore Vanessa Wolf shouted loudly:

- Do not slide down there! It's dangerous!

She rushed to the children and asked if they knew what was wrong with the place.

- What's wrong? asked Fiona.

- The pile of snow, panted Vanessa Wolf. You cannot see oncoming cars and the car drivers cannot see you.

- Oh dear, said Frida.

- And it's slippery. The road is icy. Do you know what that means? continued Vanessa Wolf. Felix shook his head but said nothing.





The Foxfield children Fiona, Frida and Felix were about to cry when they were told not to slide down their favorite hill.

- When there is ice on the road, a car cannot stop suddenly, explained the reporter.
- Oh dear, said Felix quietly.
- And the big plough cars. You have to watch out for those, too.
- Why? asked Fiona shyly.
- They can drive fast. Then they can stop suddenly, turn around and continue in another direction.
- Oh dear, said Fiona, Frida and Felix in unison.

The reporter saw that the Foxfield children were about to burst into tears. She had an idea.

- I know! Let's find a safe hill for you. Is that ok?

All three nodded but said nothing. They gathered up their things and followed Vanessa Wolf to a park that was some distance from the road. There were no cars. Fiona, Frida and Felix sled down the hill, they jumped and played in the snow and were happy again. Reporter Wolf took lots of pictures of them. Later in the evening reporter Vanessa Wolf wrote an article about the winter activities of the Foxfield children. She chose to include a photograph in which Fiona, Frida and Felix were standing next to a big pile of snow. The caption

read: Fiona, Frida and Felix Foxfield say that a pile of snow is not an appropriate place to play and neither is the road. The children watch out for cars and they are always careful when it's slippery and dark outside. Little Felix announces that they all have reflectors on their overcoats.

Tracks of wolf

Vanessa Wolf was happy and proud as she watched the Foxfield children slide down a hill and she knew she had done her good deed for the day.



Vanessa Wolf was happy and proud when she watched the Foxfield children slide down the hill and she knew she had done a good deed.

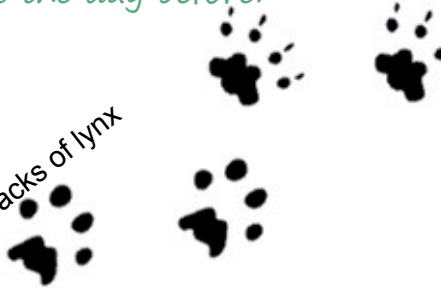
The following day the residents of Livelyville read the story about three wise fox cubs and all parents said: - How lively children we have here in Livelyville!





There was one particularly happy child in the Lynx family: Larry, who had gotten a brand new bike and helmet the day before.

Tracks of lynx



LARRY LYNX'S BIKE RIDE

- Jane Trygg-Kaipainen -

Spring had come to the town of Livelyville. Life in the town was peaceful and everything was as well as could possibly be.

There was one particularly happy child in the Lynx family: Larry, who had gotten a brand new bike and helmet the day before. The bike was metallic blue and it had all the accessories anybody could want. Mommy Lynx had adjusted the helmet straps so that it fit perfectly over Larry's spring hat.

Mommy Lynx laughed when she looked at her happy son. She gave Larry a quick lesson on biking, showing him how to brake on the new bike and where Larry could ride it: only on the bicycle and pedestrian path, of course. But Larry knew that already. Mommy Lynx also reminded him that cyclists must always pay attention to pedestrians. Larry dutifully promised to remember everything Mommy Lynx had told him.

All this had happened the day before. Now Larry wanted to go out and ride his new bike. Maybe he could ride all the way to the playground. He wanted to show his new

bike to his friends. But Mommy Lynx was at work and Daddy Lynx was in the middle of something important. They had told Larry to wait. They would all go biking together later in the afternoon. Larry looked at his bike while playing in the yard.

Larry was not allowed to leave the yard by himself but the new bike seemed to be talking to him.

- Let's go for a little ride, Larry heard a voice inside his head say. And he thought: - I practiced with Mommy yesterday. She showed me how to ride the bike and how to brake. And of course I'll wear my helmet. Mommy and Daddy won't have to know. Mommy will probably be home soon and Daddy will finish his work. They will join me in a short time.

And so it happened that Larry could not resist temptation. He went inside to get his helmet and the keys to his bike. Larry put his helmet on just like Mommy Lynx had taught him and unlocked his bike. He could feel the excitement in his tummy but



Larry took the bike, jumped on the saddle and started pedaling. Everything is going just fine, he thought. I'll drive really slowly. Soon all my friends will see what a fine bike I've got!

Suddenly Larry saw an old man in front of him. It was Uncle Wolverine who was on his way to the library. Larry rang the bell like Mommy had told him to. Uncle Wolverine had been deep in thought and was very startled when he heard the sound of the bell. There he stood, almost in the middle of the road and in Larry's way. Larry managed to drive around Uncle Wolverine, but it was a close call.

Larry was embarrassed and he turned to see what had happened to Uncle Wolverine. When Larry looked at the bicycle path again, he nearly collided with Mrs. Crane who was out walking her tiny rat. Mrs. Crane stood on one side of the bicycle path, holding on to the leash, while the rat was running around on the other. – Look out! howled Larry when he saw the danger. He was going so fast that he had no time to brake. But Mrs. Crane was quick. She took a couple of long strides across the bicycle path and managed to save all three of them. Larry did not stop to listen to what Mrs. Crane had to say. Suddenly, riding the bike did not seem like such a good idea after all. – I wish I'd waited for Mommy and Daddy! he thought. – But I'll be in the playground soon. I'll wait for them there.

A few children were already in the playground playing soccer. Just before Larry had made it to the playground, the soccer ball flew over the hedge – and Barney Bear dashed after it. Larry had no time to brake: he hit the soccer ball and fell, hurting his knee and elbow. Barney ran to help Larry. – Mommy! Mommy! Come quickly! he shouted.



Daddy Lynx reached the accident site and was relieved to see that Larry was not badly hurt. Small scrapes were cleaned with water.

Mommy Bear came to console Larry. She wiped away the blood and put a big band-aid on his knee.

- My new bike..., said Larry quietly.
- Your bike is fine. It only has a few scratches, said Barney.
- How fortunate that you had your helmet properly fastened, added Mommy Bear kindly. – Otherwise you would have hit your head quite badly.

Daddy Lynx had also made it to the site of the accident. He had guessed where Larry had gone when he had noticed the bike gone from the yard. Daddy Lynx was relieved nothing worse had happened to Larry. First he thanked Barney and Mommy Bear and then took Larry aside to give him a good talking to. Larry understood he had done wrong and apologized. He also promised to obey the rules they had agreed on together.

Daddy Lynx forgave his son and together they rode safely home.





Tracks of owl



A SUMMER TRIP TO THE LAKE

- Jane Trygg-Kaipainen -

How warm it was in Livelyville! Summer had arrived a week ago and life in the town went by peacefully. Everything was as well as could possibly be.

The Livelyville children and their parents were waiting for a bus at the bus station. They had been invited on a trip. Ms Owl, their guide on this trip, had not yet arrived. Suddenly one of the Foxfield children, probably Frida, called out: - There is Ms Owl! She is already on the bus.

The bus stopped and the driver, Uncle Moose, opened the door. Ms Owl wished all the families a warm welcome. She also thanked them for their orderly queue. Everyone would have a seat on the bus.

Once they were all seated and buckled up, Uncle Moose closed the doors and they were on their way. During the drive they sang together and Ms Owl told amusing stories about everything that had happened during the year. She told about the fall day when Barney Bear had taken his autumn walk and Uncle Moose had been unable to see through the window of his car.

- Oh dear, that was terrible! said Uncle Moose from behind the wheel. - How for-

Ms Owl was already on the bus waiting for the others. She welcomed all the children and their parents to the summer trip.

tunate that Grandma Bear came and saved Barney at the last minute, he added.

Ms Owl also told a story about the three little fox cubs who did not think that the big banks of snow on the side of the road were a good place for sliding downhill with a sled. Everyone had read about it in the newspaper. Fiona, Frida and Felix looked at each other but said nothing. Vanessa Wolf had come along with her daughter Maya. The reporter looked at the little fox cubs but didn't say anything, either. She just smiled.

Ms Owl wanted to warn all children about what could happen if they did something they were not allowed to do. A little lynx boy had taken his bike and gone for a ride on his own. Luckily the little lynx had been wearing a helmet, otherwise he could have





been badly hurt. Larry blushed and felt embarrassed. But Ms Owl quit reminiscing and praised the little lynx for wearing his helmet. Everybody applauded and Larry no longer looked so sad.

Uncle Moose, who was driving, parked the car on a rest stop by the lake. The travelers could go swimming and afterwards eat ice cream.

Ms Owl warned the children not to rush out of the bus. They were to exit calmly, one by one. Other buses or cars could pull into the rest stop and anybody rushing would be in danger. The travelers acted just as well as they were supposed to when getting off the bus.

The children swam and splashed in the warm water. Both their parents and young Sadler Swan, the lifeguard, kept a watchful eye on them at all times. Sadler Swan showed the children where the water was shallow and where it was deep. The children were to stay in marked areas. When Felix Fox came to ask him whether he could dive off the jetty, Sadler Swan patted Felix on the shoulder and said: - Good thing you asked. It's safe to dive here because the

Uncle Moose parked the car on a rest stop by the lake where the travelers could go swimming. The driver himself was the first to make sure that the beach was safe for the swimmers.

water is deep enough. But remember never to dive off a jetty without asking first.

When they had all swam enough, gotten dressed, chosen an ice cream cone and eaten it, Sadler Swan went home on his own boat. He put on a life vest and rode his boat around a few times. The children waved at him from the shore and called out their good-byes. Then the Livelyville gang climbed back on the bus and the journey continued.

Everybody remembered that day. The people of Livelyville talked about their summer trip even during the next winter when life in the town went by peacefully and everything was as well as could possibly be.

