
DON'T DELAY,
DEE LAY!
by childbook.ai
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Dee Lay wiggled his toes with excitement. Today was his first day of school! But his tummy felt fluttery too. "What if I'm too slow?" he whispered. Chase the cheetah zoomed past, scarf flapping. "Hurry up, Dee Lay! Run like me!" Dee tried to run. His long arms wobbled. His claws caught the grass. Down he tumbled, nose in the dirt. "Oof," said Dee. Running was not his thing at all.



Chase dashed ahead again. "Faster, faster!" he called. Dee Lay hurried his claws, tripped on a root, and bonked into a bush. Leaves flew everywhere! His yellow backpack slipped sideways. "I'll never catch up," Dee sighed sadly. Chase skidded back, worried. "I didn't mean to make you fall." Dee looked at the tall trees around them and remembered something important his mama once told him, softly, under the stars.



"Sloths don't run," Mama's voice echoed in his mind. "Sloths climb." Dee Lay looked up at a giant tree. His heart thumped. Slowly, carefully, he reached one long arm, then another. His curved claws gripped the bark perfectly. Up, up, up he went! Chase watched with wide eyes. "Whoa, Dee Lay, you're amazing!" Dee smiled. He wasn't falling behind — he was finding his very own way.



At the top, Dee Lay gasped. A cozy school sat nestled in the branches! Teacher, a gentle orangutan, smiled warmly. "Welcome, climber." Monkey adjusted his round glasses, Parrot held up a pencil, and Fawn waved her light-blue backpack. "Everyone learns differently here," said Teacher kindly. Chase climbed up too, slower this time. Dee Lay grinned proudly. He hadn't delayed at all — he'd simply climbed his own way to school.



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